

Independent Reading Guide: Nonfiction

Directions: Use the following questions to clarify your understanding of and response to a nonfiction selection. Reflect on each question before answering. If you are keeping a *Reader's Response Journal* or wish to start one, use one of the suggested activities to make an entry.

Title _____ Author _____

Circle the type of nonfiction.

essay biography autobiography sports how-to
humor letter memoir careers astronomy
history article geography personal narrative
other _____

This nonfiction selection (circle one or more)

instructs informs describes persuades entertains.

This nonfiction selection tells about (circle one or more)

person(s) place(s) thing(s) event(s) other: _____.

Elements of Nonfiction

1. Who or what is this nonfiction selection about? _____

2. What is the author's purpose for writing this selection? _____

3. What information, facts, or examples does the author include to support the purpose? _____

4. For what group of people would this selection be most appealing? What does the author include to appeal to this audience? _____

5. What technique(s) does the author use to appeal to the reader? Circle one and give an example from the selection.
description argument comparison and contrast
emotional language quotations personal recollections
Example: _____

6. Summarize the theme or central idea of this selection.

7. Is there a sentence or short passage that states or strongly implies the message or main idea? If so, what is it?

Response to the Nonfiction Selection

Rate this nonfiction selection by circling the appropriate word.

- | | | | |
|---|------|------|--------|
| 8. This selection is written in a style that is clear and interesting. | weak | fair | strong |
| 9. The topic, main idea, or purpose is obvious. | weak | fair | strong |
| 10. The details are helpful, informative, and understandable. | weak | fair | strong |
| 11. I can connect with the author's thoughts or feelings about the subject. | weak | fair | strong |
| 12. This selection helps me understand people and events. | weak | fair | strong |
| 13. Overall, I rate this nonfiction selection as | weak | fair | strong |

Reasons for my rating: _____

14. What predictions and questions occurred to me as I read this selection? Were my predictions accurate? Were my questions answered?

Reader's Response Journal

- Describe something that you learned from reading this selection. Write about it and explain its significance.
- What do you think is this author's greatest strength as a writer? Write a short paragraph to explain your reason and give an example from the selection to support your reason.