Name _____ Date _____

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.