

# INDEPENDENT READING GUIDE: The Short Story

Group name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Use the questions below to clarify your understanding of and response to a short story. Reflect on each question before answering. The group must agree on a single answer.

Story Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

This story was (circle one) assigned a personal selection

This story was found in the (circle one) textbook library other \_\_\_\_\_

## Elements of the Short Story

1. Who is the protagonist in the story? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What challenge or conflict does the protagonist encounter? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How is the conflict resolved? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What other important characters are involved in the conflict? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What kind of person is the protagonist? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What evidence in the story leads us to this opinion of the protagonist? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Where does this story take place? When does the story take place? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How do we summarize the mood? How does the author establish this mood?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Summarize the theme or central ideal of this short story. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Is there a sentence or short passage that states or strongly implies the theme? If so, what is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Response to the Short Story

Rate this story by circling the appropriate word.

- |  |      |      |        |
|--|------|------|--------|
| 11. The characters and dialogue are believable, and the plot engages our interest. | weak | fair | strong |
| 12. This story is written in a style that is clear and interesting.                | weak | fair | strong |
| 13. This story helps us understand people and events.                              | weak | fair | strong |
| 14. The details in this story could be easily visualized as we read.               | weak | fair | strong |
| 15. Overall, we rate this story as   | weak | fair | strong |

Reasons for our rating: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What predictions and questions occurred to us as we read this story? Were our predictions accurate? Were our questions answered?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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