

Independent Reading Guide: The Short Story

Name _____ Date _____

Directions to the Student: Use the questions below to clarify your understanding of and response to a short story. 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.

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—the main character—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 me to this opinion of the protagonist? _____

7. Where does this story take place? _____

8. How would I describe the mood? How does the author establish this mood?

9. Summarize the theme or central idea of this short story. _____

10. Is there a sentence or short passage that states or strongly implies the theme?
If so, what is it? _____
