

NONFICTION: "Whispers From the Grave" • SKILL: Reading Comprehension, page 1 of 2

Read, Think, Explain

Identifying Nonfiction Elements

Exploring the facts and ideas in a nonfiction article will help you understand it better. Use this worksheet to help you understand "Whispers From the Grave" in the October 31, 2011, issue of *Scope*.

A. BEFORE READING

1. Read the title, or headline, of the article. Write it here: _____

Now look at the photographs and read the captions. What do you predict the story will be about? Circle one of the choices below and explain.

A person If so, who? _____

An event If so, what? _____

Something else If so, what? _____

2. Look at the photograph on pages 4-5. What does it show? What is the mood of this photograph?

B. DURING READING

Read the subtitle, or heading, of each section. Then complete the following.

3. The **first section** is the introduction. It is mainly about (summarize): _____

_____ .

4. The **second section** is called _____. It is mainly about (summarize): _____

_____ .

5. The **third section** is called _____. It is mainly about (summarize): _____

_____ .

6. The **fourth section** is called _____. It is mainly about (summarize): _____

_____ .

7. The **fifth section** is called _____. It is mainly about (summarize): _____

_____ .

8. The **sixth section** is called _____. It is mainly about (summarize): _____

_____ .

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >

C. AFTER READING

9. Write down three facts from the article that you didn't know before you read it.

10. What is the main purpose of the article? (circle one)

- to convince the reader
that ghosts are real
- to explain who Sarah
Winchester was
- to explore our enduring
fascination with ghosts

11. What is the connection between the main article and the poem on page 9? _____

12. Summarize what type of information is presented in "Ghosts by the Numbers." _____

D. TEXT STRUCTURE

13. Sequencing: Number the following 1-6 in the order in which they happened.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sarah meets with Adam Coons. | The Winchester House is declared a landmark. | The Civil War starts. | Sarah spends \$5.5 million building her mansion. | Sarah's husband dies. | Sarah moves to San Jose. |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

E. MAKING CONNECTIONS

14. Here's how this article relates to (fill in at least two):

Something else I read: _____

Something else I know about: _____

Something in my own life: _____
