

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

# Read, Think, Explain

## Identifying Nonfiction Elements

Use this activity sheet with "Unbroken: A Year in the Life of a Girl With Cancer." See *Scope's* "Glossary of Nonfiction Terms" and "Glossary of Literary Terms" for definitions of the words that appear in bold.

### Before Reading Text Features

1. Study the photography on pages 4-5, and read the **headline** and **subheading** of the article. Why do you think the editors chose to make the headline so big? What idea or feeling does the large size give you?

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2. Examine the images on pages 6-9. What do they show?

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3. What do you think this article will be mostly about?

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### During Reading Inferencing, Mood, Vocabulary, Text Structure, and Tone

4. Reread the first paragraph of the article. What can you infer about Lauren from the description of her room?

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5. The **mood** of the first paragraph is uplifting. In the following three paragraphs, the mood shifts to nightmarish. What details in the text create this shift in mood?

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6. Consider this sentence from page 7:

“There would be radiation therapy, in which a beam of energy would be pointed at Lauren’s skin to incinerate the cancer cells beneath.”

A. Check (  ) the box with the correct definition of *incinerate* as it is used in the sentence from the article. (Check a dictionary if you’re not sure.)

remove with suction
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burn completely
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separate slowly
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B. Why might the author have chosen *incinerate* instead of another word? What does the author’s choice of *incinerate* tell you about Lauren’s treatment?

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7. The author organizes the section “Something Changed” by describing a series of causes and effects.

A. Read the following cause. Explain its effect on the lines provided.

**Cause:** Lauren’s hair fell out because of the chemotherapy.

**Effect:** \_\_\_\_\_

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B. Read the following effect. Write its cause on the lines provided.

**Effect:** She realized she could be proud of her baldness instead of ashamed.

**Cause:** \_\_\_\_\_

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8. The author’s descriptions of Lauren include words and phrases like *hopeful*, *endured with grace and determination*, and *persevered*. What other words and phrases does she use to describe Lauren? How do these words contribute to the overall **tone** of the article?

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## After Reading Central Idea and Objective Summary

9. Below is a **central idea** of “Unbroken: A Year in the Life of a Girl With Cancer.” Three of the pieces of evidence listed support it, but one of them does not. Cross out the one that does not.

<p><b>Central Idea</b></p> <p>Lauren’s positive attitude helped her get through her difficult cancer treatment.</p>			
<p><b>Evidence #1</b></p> <p>“Dealing with cancer isn’t just about battling to survive. It’s also about learning to cope with a whole new life.” (p. 7)</p>	<p><b>Evidence #2</b></p> <p>“Lauren endured with grace and determination.” (p. 7)</p>	<p><b>Evidence #3</b></p> <p>“In the hospital, she looked forward to visits with her mom, stepdad, and 8-year-old brother.” (p. 8)</p>	<p><b>Evidence #4</b></p> <p>“‘I just looked for the light at the end of the tunnel,’ she says.” (p. 8)</p>

10. An **objective summary** is a short statement or paragraph that tells what an article is about. An objective summary does not include irrelevant details or the opinions of the person writing it. Circle details below that should NOT be included in an objective summary of “Unbroken: A Year in the Life of a Girl With Cancer.”

1. Lauren is a teenager who was diagnosed with cancer.
2. Neuroblastoma is a cancer of the nervous system.
3. Some people get cancer from exposure to toxic chemicals.
4. Chemotherapy has many serious side effects.
5. Lauren is wearing a pretty shirt in the photographs.
6. Lauren slept in her wig.
7. Though her treatment was difficult, Lauren found ways to stay positive.
8. Lauren had to get a bigger jar for her pink stones.
9. Lauren gained a lot of strength from her family and friends.
10. Lauren has a younger brother.
11. Seeing other teen cancer patients with bald heads had a profound effect on Lauren.
12. Lauren mentors other kids who have cancer.
13. Lauren likes buffalo chicken sandwiches.
14. Lauren is a really brave person, and I think it is so great that she is cancer-free.