Sample Secondary Source Analysis (Nonfiction)

Name of book or article:
Publishing date:
Author:
What is the story about?
When did the author write the story?
When did the story actually take place?
Was the author there at the time? (If your answer is "yes" this is probably NOT a secondary source.)
How long was it between when the event or story took place and when the author wrote it?
Why do you think the author wrote the story?
What are the most important things the author thinks happened and why?
What does the author want you to think or do after you have read the story?
What primary sources did the author use?
Look for information about the author on the internet and tell a little about his or her life.
List some other accounts of the same story or event by different authors.
Do all of the authors agree? If not, how are they different?