



Good morning Grade 7s

5 May 2020

### **Writing a summary**

Watch this short video on how to write a summary:

<https://youtu.be/dsB73dRuGcE>

#### What is a summary?

In essence, a summary means that you briefly retell a story in your own words.



Think about how you would tell your friends about a movie that you have just watched. Would you spend 2 hours telling them the whole story word for word? No, of course not! What would you do? You would briefly retell the story in your own words. A summary!

Writing a good summary is not as easy as it may appear. It actually requires quite a bit of finesse. First, you must read and comprehend the text. Then you must identify main ideas and key points, which means that you must have a good enough understanding of the text to distinguish between essential and nonessential information. Finally you must express this information in your own words. This means that summarising a text requires both comprehension and expression skills. Additionally, summaries should not contain opinions, background knowledge, or personal information; rather, a summary should be entirely text based.

#### So how do we go about writing a summary?

Read through the note on summarising that I handed out to you at the end of last term. (I have included it below for those of you who perhaps didn't receive it because you were absent.)

# Summarising

## Getting to the Point



**Summary** = Short account of the **central ideas** of a text.

### Summaries are not a place for...

- Opinions,
- background knowledge,
- personal information.

### How to summarise.

1. **Read** the text.
2. Don't let big words scare you.
3. Ask, "**What was this text about?**"

### Your answer...

- **should** be a complete sentence or two,
- **should** cover **main points** and **key ideas**,
- **should** be in your own words,
- **shouldn't** just be a word or two.

### Should it go in my summary?

Only **major ideas** and **necessary information** should go into a summary.

Ask yourself:

**“Do you need this information to understand the text?”**

If the answer is **yes**, put it into your own words, in your summary.

### Main idea and key points.

**The main idea is what the text is about.**

**Key points are arguments or information that is used to support the main idea.**

**Key points** may be developed, or elaborated with **supporting details**.

Your **summary** should only include main ideas and key points, not **supporting details**.

Read the example below.

### Example Text

A penny for your thoughts? If it's a 1943 copper penny, it could be worth as much as fifty thousand dollars. In 1943, most pennies were made out of steel since copper was needed for World War II, so, the 1943 copper penny is ultra-rare. Another rarity is the 1955 double die penny. These pennies were mistakenly double stamped, so they have overlapping dates and letters. If it's uncirculated, it'd easily fetch \$25,000 at an auction. Now that's a pretty penny.

### Incorrect Response 1

*This text is about pennies.*

- This response is too short.
- It does not include key ideas.



### Incorrect Response 2

*The 1943 copper penny is worth a lot of money. Copper was hard to get during the war so there aren't many of them. The 1955 double die penny is worth a lot too. These pennies were stamped twice on accident.*

- Too much unnecessary information.
- Main idea is not clear.



### Correct Response

*This text is about two very rare and valuable pennies: the 1943 copper penny and the 1955 double die penny.*

- Includes key information.
- Doesn't include unnecessary information.
- Is a complete sentence.



**See the attached Power point presentation (Summary presentation) for some more practice examples. Try to summarise each nursery rhyme in your own words. Do this exercise in your jotter.**

**Summary presentation** – This Power point presentation will teach you how to summarise. It includes definitions, example paragraphs, and a simple review activity using nursery rhymes.

**Move on to the next Power point presentation (Summary practice). Try to summarise the paragraphs in your own words. Do this exercise in your jotter.**

**Summary practice** – Here is a Power point presentation with four practice passages. Read each passage twice, and then create your summaries.

**Reading:** continue reading the next 5 pages of your class reader.

**Spelling:** revise the first 10 words (spelling & meaning) of Spelling Unit 5.