

Lesson 4: Summarizing

What Is A Summary

A *SUMMARY* is a short recap of the most important parts of a text. A summary is written in the reader's own words.

Good readers summarize *before, during, and after* they read.



- Remember the most important parts of a text
- Carry important information from one chapter to the next
- Talk about the important parts of the book

How To Summarize

read

Read, gather important information about story elements and characters, and take notes.

pause

Ask yourself, "Is this important enough to include in a summary?"

write

Record your summary using your own words to reflect the most important parts of the text



When To Summarize

before

Before you continue reading a chapter book, summarize what has happened in the book so far.

during

Pause throughout your reading to summarize what is happening. A good place to do this, is at the end of each chapter, or in the middle of a long chapter.

after

At the end of your reading, summarize what you have read by writing, talking, or thinking about it

Summary vs. Retelling

Although retelling a story can show the reader took in all the information they could, it is important to know the difference between retelling and summarizing.

Retelling includes every single detail, even the details that might not be important.

Example #1:

When retelling a story, you may include the details such as the colours of the flowers.

However, in a summary, you would not include the colours unless it was very important to the story.

Example #2:

When retelling a story, you can include the words of the author and you don't have to change them.

However, in a summary, you would use your own words and not the author's words.

The Difference

The table below shows more differences between a summary and a retelling of a story.

Summary	vs.	Retell
<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Tells only the most important parts of a story		<ul style="list-style-type: none">o RE-tells the whole story
<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Written in the reader's own words		<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Long with very specific details
<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Short and focused		<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Includes the author's exact words
<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Includes story elements – character, setting, plot, problem, solution		<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Includes every event in order they happened
<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Includes names of people, places, and things		

What is S.W.D.S.T?

What is **S•W•B•S•T**

SWBST is an acronym used to remind us what we need to think about when summarizing.

It helps us remember what information is most **important**, instead of small details.

The letters stand for...

S • S O M E B O D Y

W • W A N T E D

B • B U T

S • S O

T • T H E N

Now complete activity **S.W.B.S.T.** on the next page.

S*W*B*S*T

What is SWBST?

Fill in the blanks for the acronym

S = _____

W = _____

B = _____

S = _____

T = _____

Using S.W.B.S.T.

USING S•W•B•S•T
to summarize

S O M E B O D Y

Who is the main character?

W A N T E D

What did the main character want?

B U T

What problem did the main character
face?

S O

What events happened to try to solve
the problem?

T H E N

How was the problem solved?

Now complete the Summarizing Activity on the next page.

