



Part 10: Summarising-The Short Version

Summarising

Summarising is an essential skill that assists children when they are researching, gathering and presenting information.

Good readers use a combination of strategies as they summarise, including; visualising, inferring and identifying the main idea.

Good readers make mental and written summaries as they read. They reduce a larger piece of text by using key words and phrases to capture the main focus.

Good readers identify the most important information or ideas and restate them in their own words. This important comprehension strategy is referred to as 'summarising'. Summarising requires active thinking by the readers as they condense the big ideas and information and to determine the crux of meaning in texts. In order to generate meaningful summaries, children must understand what they have read and make decisions about which information or ideas are significant.

This process of summarising begins before reading when the reader decides the purpose for reading, make predictions, and bring their prior knowledge to the text. While reading, children must actively search for important facts or ideas and identify text structure. After reading, students clarify their ideas and understanding.

Tips to help At home!

- ✓ *Select part of a text and cross out all of the unimportant/redundant words or sentences or, highlight the most important ideas in the quickest amount of time.*
- ✓ *Write a commercial for the book.*
- ✓ *Read newspaper articles and come up with titles and subtitles to match the articles.*
- ✓ *Find examples of summary writing (travel brochures, game instructions, chapter summaries, etc.) and create a list of similar features of all summaries.*

Focus Questions

- Can you tell me what happened in your own words?
- What are the key words?
- What information can I leave out?
- Have you deleted trivial information?
- What is the most important information you are reading? How do you know?
- How does the text's organisation help me?
- Does the summary include all the important events?
- What is the story mainly about?