



Year 6 - Reading Task Week 2 - 30.03.2020

This week's reading task is about summarising information.

There are three levels of challenges, shown by the star symbols as usual. You may choose to do just one of them for each part of the task, or you might choose to do more than one. The choice is yours! The three-star challenge is explained at the end.

To **summarise** the information you have read means to pick out the **main facts** so you can focus only on the **important parts** of it when you retell it.

To summarise we should use the following skills:

- Jot down main events in the text as they happen, including important details.
- At the end of the chapter/paragraph, check main events, retell, summarise information.
- At the end of the book or text, go through the important points/events and summarise.

Let's take a look at an example of a **summary** of The Three Little Pigs...



The three little pigs had to build themselves a house. One built his out of straw, one out of sticks and one out of bricks. When a wolf came along, he blew down the house of straw and the house of sticks because they weren't strong enough and he gobbled up the pigs. However, the brick house was too strong for him so the wolf climbed down the chimney but the third pig was ready for him. The wolf fell into a pot of boiling water which killed him and the third little pig lived happily ever after.



This summary misses out details such as why they were building the house, where they got the materials from, what the wolf said before he blew the houses down, how the pigs felt, descriptions of the characters and lots more.

Only the main events of the story are used in the summary of it.



Which of the following would be the most suitable summary of the whole text?

A victorious wolf conquers.

Three pigs live happily ever after.

It's best to build a house from sticks.

The third pig built the strongest house and lived.

We know that the wolf was not victorious because he died in the end. We also know that three little pigs did not live happily ever after as two were eaten by the wolf. The house that was built from sticks fell down. The correct summary is that the third pig built the strongest house and lived.

When you **summarise** a **fiction** text, you only take the **main ideas** (e.g. facts about the characters or details of events) and use them to **write a summary** in your **own words**. It is a great deal shorter than the original text and gives a more **focused overview** of a character, an event or the main idea of the text.

Let's practise summarising **events** in a story.

Read the following story.

★ Answer the multiple-choice question that follows.

★★ Underline/highlight the main events and then use this to write a paragraph summarising the story.

It was Saturday morning and Jamia and his friend Lucas decided that they would ride out on their bikes and have some fun. It had been raining steadily so the paths were still quite muddy and wet. They thought it would be a good idea to ride through the woods in anticipation of spotting an elusive red squirrel. Alongside the path, clumps of bushes, full of brightly coloured berries, protruded dangerously and the boys had to swerve around them.

Suddenly, the wind blew a cluster of leaves at Jamia and he veered awkwardly to avoid it striking his face. Unfortunately, the tyres on his bike slid on the mud and he tumbled into one of the ditches running parallel to the lane.



Luckily, he wasn't hurt but had landed on what looked like clumps of mini volcanoes. As they looked more closely at the mounds of earth, armies of tiny red ants came marching out of the top.

"Oh no!" shouted Jamia as he realised he had disturbed the ant colony which he knew would definitely upset the ants. "We need to get out of here and quick. These ants bite! Ouch!"

Jamia didn't hesitate for a moment longer. Lucas hauled him up out of the ditch instantaneously. They then quickly mounted their bikes and raced off in the direction of home. After that experience, they decided to watch films instead. It certainly would be much drier and much less painful!



Which of the following would be the most suitable summary of the whole text?

Jamia and Lucas have a great day out.

Jamia and Lucas have a difficult bike journey.

A volcano erupts.

Jamia and Lucas find a squirrel.

Tick one



Let's practise summarising **character** details.

Read the following story.

★ Answer the multiple-choice question that follows.

★★ Underline/highlight the main parts that show Mrs Brown's appearance/personality/speech/actions and then use this to write a character profile (summary) of Mrs Brown.

The door flew open and Mrs Brown came rushing in. She was quite a large lady. Her round, jolly face had rosy cheeks with deep dimples when she smiled, which she often did. She shuffled across the floor to where we were sitting, wearing a very large dress, with the usual bright flowery patterns, that swished around when she walked. Daniel quickly pulled up an empty chair as she approached. Although she had a very busy life, we all knew she wouldn't let us down.

"Oh dear! Late again!" she said as she flopped into her seat. "I've been so looking forward to this. The children have worked so hard." But we all knew how much of her own time she had selflessly given to this performance and we all loved her for it. She then looked towards the stage where a few children had gathered in a line and were preparing to sing. The lights began to dim and we all settled down to enjoy the forthcoming entertainment. Mrs Brown smiled proudly as the children began to sing.



Which of the following would be the most suitable summary of Mrs Brown's **character**?

Tick one

Mrs Brown was a small, quiet lady.

Mrs Brown was very punctual.

Mrs Brown was a generous, happy, busy person

Mrs Brown didn't enjoy working with children.



Let's practise summarising a description of a **setting**.

Read the following story.

★ Answer the multiple-choice question that follows.

★★ Underline/highlight the parts that describe the setting of the story and then use this to write a summary paragraph describing the cave.

As we entered the dusty cave we felt suddenly apprehensive. Glancing around cautiously, we could only see dark brown jagged shapes protruding from the walls. A sickly stench of damp hit our throats like a cold, wet lump of cotton wool, making us cough and gasp for air. Alfie bent down and picked up two small red pebbles.

"These are the pebbles Luke had in his pocket!" he exclaimed excitedly. "He must have come into this cave. We have to look for him."



So we proceeded to walk with more urgency into the cold darkness of the cave but the ground was so coarse and uneven that we desperately gripped the sides of the slimy, damp walls to prevent us from stumbling. Strange, eerie noises echoed all around us.

Suddenly, there was a loud scratching noise emanating from behind us. My heart began to pulsate so fiercely that I felt it might explode from beneath my jacket. Slowly and nervously, I turned my head and caught sight of a small shadow scuttling quickly between the walls and the sharp, shiny floor of the cave.

