

Writing a Summary of What We Read

Subject _____ Class _____ Date _____

Assignment Summary

A summary is a shortened version of what we read. Summaries help us to understand and remember the important parts of our reading and teach others what we have learned in our reading. Sometimes we will summarize stories we read, while other times, we will summarize nonfiction (or factual) information that we read.

Writer's Purpose	You will write or draw a summary of the big ideas in today's reading. You will not include your opinion—just the information that the author tells us.
Writer's Role	Your summary will help other students who have not read the book to understand what you have learned.
Audience	Your audience will be students like you who were not here to read the book but would like to learn about it.
Form	You will write or draw a summary of the book.
Focus Correction Areas (FCAs)	<p>For fictional text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning, Middle, End (BME) or Beginning and End (BE) • 3* or more details from the story shown (magnifying glass with a 3 inside or 3D) • To be determined (e.g., labels, realistic colors, time order words, space between words, etc.) <p>For informational text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 to 3* facts from the book (magnifying glass with a 1, 2, or 3 inside or 1F, 2F, or 3F) • Realistic colors (crayon box) or Labeled picture (arrow) • To be determined (e.g., correct spelling of word bank words, complete sentences, beginning capitals, etc.)
Procedure	<p>To help you write your summary, we will do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the book together, stopping to discuss big ideas we hear or to record key words on our anchor chart.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss whether the book is fiction or nonfiction and how we know.• Model how the Fiction or Nonfiction Focus Sheet will be used to organize the book's key ideas. We may complete Focus Sheets for several books together as a class before I ask you to do one on your own.• Introduce the FCAs for the assignment and model as needed.• Write or draw your summary on the Focus Sheet, paying attention to the FCAs as you work.• Read your summary out loud in a one-foot voice and make any changes you think will improve it.• Show evidence that you have followed each of the FCAs.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Point to each fact or story detail.○ Count how many colors or labels you used.• Show me your writing so I can provide feedback on each FCA.
--	---

* Or some other appropriate number based on the content of the text