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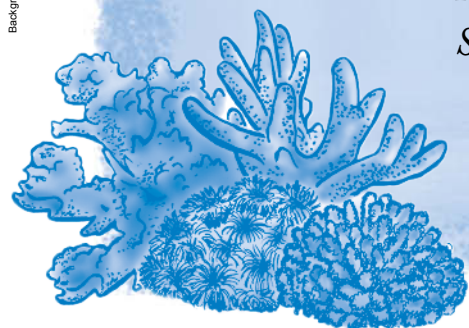
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Summaries; Finding Important Details

Summaries

summary: (sə' mə rē) a brief description of something you have heard or read



A **summary** is a description, written in your own words, that tells only the main ideas and the most important facts of something you have read or heard.

A written summary should be about one-third the length of the original story or article. That means if a story has twelve paragraphs, then your summary of the story would be about four paragraphs long.

Guidelines for writing a summary:

1. Read the book or article carefully.
2. Write one sentence that gives a general idea of the whole story.
3. Take notes about the important details.
4. Close the book and use your notes to write the summary.

The Blind and Deaf Girl

Helen Keller is an example of someone who overcame a physical handicap. She encouraged other people to overcome their disabilities.

When she was about eighteen months old, an illness caused Helen to become blind, deaf, and unable to talk. She became unruly, communicating by giggling, screaming, kicking, and scratching.

Helen's father hired Anne Sullivan to teach the unruly child. Anne used touch to teach Helen to read and write Braille.

When Helen was ten years old, she decided to learn to speak, so she took speaking lessons. By age sixteen, she was able to go to school and on to college, where she graduated with honors.

After college, Helen began helping others like herself. She gave speeches, wrote books and articles, and asked for money to improve conditions for the blind.

Wherever Helen Keller appeared, she brought courage and hope to suffering people.



Finding Important Details

To find the important details of something you have read or heard before you write a summary of it, ask these questions:

- Who is the main character of the story?
- What happened to them or what did they do?
- When did the story take place?
- Where did the story happen?

Notice how the steps on page 28 were followed to write this summary:

Single-sentence summary:

Helen Keller learned to overcome her handicap.

Important details:

Who was the main character of the story?

Helen Keller

What happened to her or what did she do?

illness made her blind, deaf, unable to speak, and unruly
family hired a teacher; worked to get an education
helped improve the lives of other people; demonstrated courage

When did the story take place?

started in childhood; continued for the rest of her life

Where did the story happen?

at home, at college, wherever she went



Summary: The Blind and Deaf Girl

When Helen Keller was young, an illness caused her to lose her sight, hearing, and ability to talk. She was wild and unruly. Her father hired a teacher who taught her to read and write Braille.

After graduating from college, Helen helped other blind and deaf people. She encouraged others everywhere. Helen Keller showed others how to endure difficulty courageously.

**A Read the story.****Katie and the Wolf**

My family had just moved near a small town in Texas. The roads were simply pairs of ruts through the trees. There were few fences in this ranching country.

My siblings and I walked to school each day. One morning, Father handed me some coins and said, “Katie, please buy a gallon of molasses after school.” He told the others to come directly home to do the chores.

By the time I had left town, the shadows had grown long. I hurried through the dense, dark underbrush. Suddenly, ahead of me stood a big wolf. I stopped, terrified. I whirled around and raced toward town. Before I had even gone a stone’s throw, the creature appeared before me again. I turned and ran again, this time toward home. Again, the wolf appeared ahead of me. Back and forth I ran, terrified, with the wolf always appearing closer in my path.

Suddenly I realized that only God could help me. I prayed silently.

Then a strange thing happened. I began to sing. I was no longer afraid; I knew God was with me. As I sang, the wolf seemed to become fearful of me and skulked back into the shadows.

I reached home after nightfall. My parents had been worried about me, for I was very late. They did not believe I had actually seen a wolf. My story about singing the wolf away must have seemed like a tall tale.

Father thought my imagination had been overactive in the dark because there weren’t any timber wolves nearby. But the very next week, a group of coyote hunters reported killing a large wolf.

Mother’s face blanched when she heard the news. Wordlessly, she held me close. We both knew God had protected me.

“Katie and the Wolf” adapted from “The Lobo Wolf and Faith,” from *LIGHT OF LIFE*, Vol. 14, Rod and Staff Publishers, Crockett, KY. Used by permission.

B Answer these questions to take notes about the important details of the story.

- ☐ 1. Who was the main character of the story? _____
- ☐ 2. What did the main character do or what happened to them? _____

- ☐ 3. When did the story take place? _____
- ☐ 4. Where did the story happen? _____
- ☐ 5. Write a sentence that gives the main idea of the story.



C Circle the letter of the better summary of “Katie and the Wolf.”

6. a. Katie went to town after school to buy something for her father. On her way home, she met a wolf. She prayed and started to sing. Soon the wolf departed and Katie went on home. Her parents did not believe her story until they heard that hunters had killed a wolf in the area.
- b. Katie’s father asked her to go to town after school to buy molasses. On her way home from town, a wolf appeared in her path. No matter which way she turned to run, it always appeared in front of her. Although she was alone, Katie knew God was with her. She prayed and started singing. The wolf seemed to become frightened and soon disappeared.

Katie ran home and told her story. Her parents thought she had only imagined it; Katie’s father said there were no wolves in their area. The next week, they heard that some hunters had killed a large wolf. Katie’s mother was thankful that God had protected Katie.

D Circle T if the sentence is *true* or F if it is *false*.

7. T F Quickly scan the book or article you will summarize.
8. T F Make your summary about half the length of the original book or article.
9. T F Take careful notes when writing a summary.
10. T F Don’t copy from the story when writing a summary.



Looking Back



E Cross out each incorrect word. Write the correct word above it.

11. Jefferson did a badly job of cleaning his room.
12. Bats can hear very good.
13. Mildred felt badly about the silly argument.



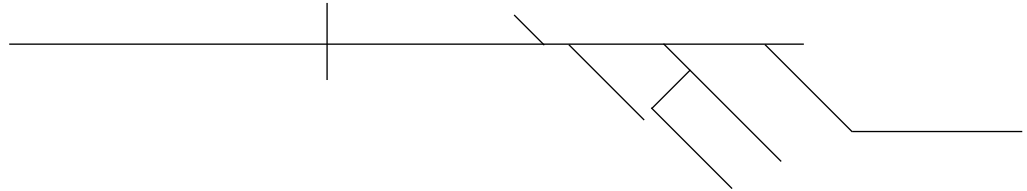


F Rewrite this dialogue correctly, using paragraphs and punctuation.

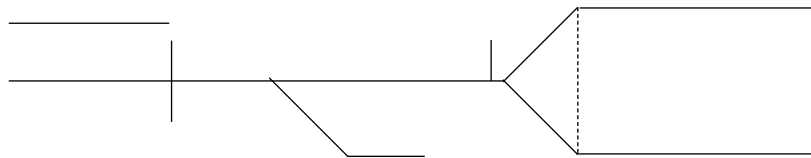
14. Katie will you color with me asked Krystal. Sure. Bring your coloring book and crayons to the kitchen table answered Katie.

**G Circle the adverb that modifies an adjective.
Diagram each sentence.**

15. Royal Gorge is a very deep canyon in Colorado.



16. Well, we might take Randall and Janelle with us.



Penmanship



- ☐ **H Write each letter neatly five times in your notebook.**

a b c d e f g

- ☐ **I Write this fact once in your notebook.**

Over 3,000 different kinds of fruit grow in the rain forest.



Spelling - Word Usage



- **J** Cross out each misspelled spelling word. Write the correct word above it. Then do the activity.

Your answers will not be spelling words. The first one is done for you.

17. Name the ^{author}~~auther~~ of a book you like. Jane Austen

18. Use two words to describe icicles. _____

19. Write a compound word. _____

20. Write a sentence using an exclamation mark.

21. Name three friendly people you know.

22. List a creative art project you have done.

23. Write one word from the dictionary you do not know. Write what your word means.

24. Write a four-syllable word that is not a spelling word.

25. Imagine you are an owl. What will you catch and eat?

26. What kind of poetry do you enjoy?

- △ **K** Write Section 2 spelling words in your notebook.