

Summarizing a Story

- A summary is a **shortened retelling** of the most important events in a story.
- A summary is written as a **short paragraph** that tells the **events in time order**.
- A summary includes a **main idea statement** and the **most important details** and **events** from the **beginning, middle,** and **end** of a story.

A Summary of The Three Little Pigs

Three little pigs learn an important lesson about careful planning. The pigs left their mother's home. The first little pig built a home out of straw. The second little pig built one from wood. A wolf blew both houses down. The third little pig built a house of bricks. The wolf could not blow it down. When the wolf came down the chimney, he was burned by fire. The wolf ran away and never came back.



The Sun and The Wind

An Aesop's Fable

1 One day long ago Sun and Wind had a quarrel. Wind said, "I am stronger than you."

2 "No," said the sun, "I am stronger than you."

3 While they were arguing, they saw a traveler coming along the road. He wore a heavy coat.

4 "See that man!" cried Wind. "Let us see which of us can take off his coat. The one who can do that is the strongest."

5 Sun agreed and told Wind to go first. Wind blew and blew and blew. But the traveler only drew his coat closer about him. Wind blew more fiercely than before. The trees rocked and dust flew up, but the traveler only buttoned up his coat.

6 "What a strong wind this is!" cried the traveler.

7 Then he turned up his coat collar to his ears. Finally, Wind gave up. Then Sun had his turn. He shone and shone and shone brightly.

8 "My, how the weather has changed!" said the traveler.

9 He unbuttoned his coat. Still the sun shone, and soon the traveler wiped sweat from his face.

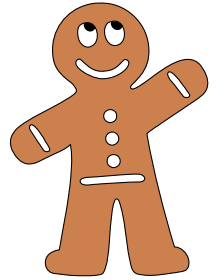
10 "This thick coat is much too warm for me. I will have to take it off and carry it on my arm," he said as he took off the coat.

11 "You have won," said Wind. "I see now that gentleness succeeds where rudeness fails."



The Gingerbread Man

Story for Guided Practice



- 1 Long ago an old woman and her husband lived alone in a small house. The lonely couple had no children. The woman decided to bake a boy from gingerbread. When she opened the oven door, the Gingerbread Man jumped up. He ran out the door saying, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me! I'm the Gingerbread Man!"
- 2 The old woman and old man ran after him, but they could not catch him. The Gingerbread Man ran and ran. Soon he met a cow. "Moo," said the cow. "You look very fine! Fine enough to eat!"
- 3 The cow started to chase the little man, but the Gingerbread Man ran faster. "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me! I'm the Gingerbread Man!" laughed the Gingerbread Man.
- 4 The cow ran after the Gingerbread Man, but she could not catch him. The Gingerbread Man kept running. Soon he met a horse. "Neigh," said the horse. "You look tasty. I think I would like to eat you."
- 5 "But you can't!" said the Gingerbread Man. He ran away singing, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me! I'm the Gingerbread Man!" The horse ran after the Gingerbread Man, but he could not catch him. In a little while, the Gingerbread Man met a chicken.
- 6 "Cackle, cackle," said the chicken. "You look fine enough to peck for dinner. I'm going to eat you, Mr. Gingerbread Man."
- 7 The Gingerbread Man just laughed. "Then he ran away saying, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me! I'm the Gingerbread Man!"
- 8 The chicken ran after the Gingerbread Man, but she was too slow. The Gingerbread Man was proud of his speed. "Nobody can catch me," he thought. The Gingerbread Man kept running until he met a fox. "Mr. Fox," he said, "As tasty as I appear to be, I cannot let you catch and eat me!"
- 9 Mr. Fox did not seem to care. "Why would I want to bother you?" asked Mr. Fox. "You don't look that tasty. I don't want to eat you at all."

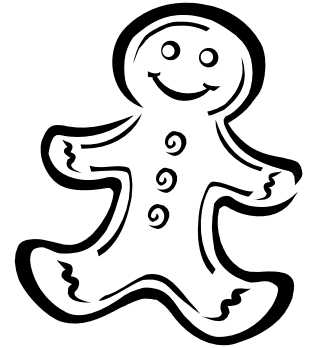
10 The Gingerbread Man decided to rest. As soon as he stopped, the fox's jaws snapped shut, and the foolish Gingerbread Man was gone.

The Gingerbread Man

Summary Paragraphs for Guided Practice

Directions: Read the beginning of the summary about *The Gingerbread Man*. Decide which statements best complete the summary.

The Gingerbread Man let his pride get the best of him. Long ago a lonely, old woman baked a gingerbread man cookie. The lively man ran away boasting that no one could catch him. Then he met different animals who wanted to eat him.



Ⓐ The Gingerbread Man told the animals that they were too slow to catch him. They all ran after him, but he was too fast. The Gingerbread man was proud of his quickness.

Ⓑ The Gingerbread Man decided to rest. He talked to a fox who told him that he did not look very tasty. Then the fox's jaws snapped shut. The Gingerbread Man was gone.

Ⓒ The Gingerbread Man said he was too fast to catch and outran all of the animals. Finally, he met a fox who tricked him when he stopped. The fox ate the Gingerbread Man.

Main Idea and Summary Word Card Definitions

Directions: Cut apart the word cards and definitions. Match the definitions with the correct word during the direct instruction part of the lesson.

Main Idea

Summary

It is a shortened retelling of the key facts about an event, experience, story, or topic. The paragraph includes the main idea and most important details from the beginning, middle, and end of a whole text.

It is the main point that an author wants a reader to remember about a topic or subject. The one sentence statement tells the most important idea about a paragraph, series of paragraphs, or a whole text.

Why Opossum Has a Bare Tail

Guided Practice

One day Opossum was walking in the woods around sunset when he spied Raccoon. Now Opossum had always admired Raccoon because he had a beautiful tail with rings all around it.

So Opossum went up to Raccoon and said, "How did you get those pretty rings on your tail?"

Raccoon stroked his fluffy long tail fondly and said, "Well, I wrapped bark around the tail here and here and here," he pointed. "Then I stuck my tail into the fire. The fur between the strips of bark turned black, and the places underneath the bark remained white, just as you see!"

Opossum thanked the Raccoon and hurried away to gather some bark. He wrapped the bark around his furry tail, built a big bonfire, and stuck his tail into the flames. Only the bonfire was too hot and too fierce. It instantly burned all of the hair off the Opossum's tail, leaving it entirely bare.

Opossum wailed and moaned when he saw his poor tail, but there was nothing he could do but wait for the fur to grow back. Opossum waited and waited and waited. But the tail was too badly burnt by the fire and the fur did not grow back. Opossum's tail remained bare for the rest of his life. Opossum tails have been bare ever since.



Source: <http://www.americanfolklore.net>

Why Opossum Has a Bare Tail

Guided Practice

Directions: A student began a summary of the folk tale. Read the summary shown below and answer the question that follows it.

Opossum wanted a tail just like the one his friend Raccoon had. Raccoon told Opossum how to make his tail have rings. Opossum followed Raccoon's directions.

Which group of sentences best completes the summary above?

- Ⓐ Opossum gathered bark from the woods. Then he wrapped his tail with the bark and made a big fire. Opossum stuck his tail into the hot flames. The fire quickly burned all the hair off his tail.
- Ⓑ Opossum howled when he saw his bare tail. He waited a very long time for the hair to grow back. Sadly, the hair never grew back on Opossum's tail.
- Ⓒ Opossum built a hot fire and stuck his tail in it. He cried loudly when he saw that all the hair had been burned off. It never grew back. That is why opossums have bare tails today.
- Ⓓ Opossum thanked Raccoon for his help. He could not wait to try out his friend's plan. Opossum hurried away to find some bark. Then he built a huge bonfire. The flames were very hot.

Beginning

Middle

End

Name: _____

Date: _____



How Chipmunk Got Its Stripes Folk Tale Guided Practice



Long ago, Earth was covered in darkness. None of the animals knew what daylight looked like. One day, all of the forest animals gathered together in a clearing. They wondered if it would be better to remain in darkness, or if it would be better to also have light. Deer, Chipmunk, Raccoon, Wolf, Bear, and many other animals climbed to the top of the highest mountain. Millions of stars blinked in the dark sky overhead.

Bear, the biggest and most powerful animal, stood on the highest peak and argued for remaining in darkness. He said that the animals of the forest would sleep better in darkness, because there would be no light to keep them awake. Most of the other animals were afraid, and they agreed with Bear. Raccoon said that he did not mind the darkness, because he was so smart that he could find plenty of food, even in the dark. Wolf was easy to please, too. She didn't mind the darkness, because she could howl in darkness or in light.

But one animal did stand up to Bear. Chipmunk, the smallest of the animals, argued that it would be better to have both light and dark. Chipmunk was very clever. As Bear continued to argue for darkness, she made many good arguments for light.

Slowly, the night passed. Bear grew tired of talking, but Chipmunk chattered on and on, as if she had all of the energy in the world. As the other animals dropped off to sleep, Chipmunk kept arguing. Finally, the first sunrise ever seen by the animals appeared over the top of the mountain. They woke up and were amazed by what they saw.

Chipmunk began to dance from rock to rock. Bear became angry, because he didn't get his way. He roared loudly and ran after Chipmunk. He chased Chipmunk all the way down the mountain. Bear was fast, and he reached out with his giant paw to grab Chipmunk. Chipmunk got away, but not before Bear managed to scratch her back with his long claws. And that is why, to this day, you can see stripes on Chipmunk's back!

A Legend of the Iroquois
Source: <http://www.longman.com>



Name: _____ Date: _____

Summarization Graphic Organizer

Guided Practice Answer Key

Story Title: How the Chipmunk Got His Stripes

Topic: Chipmunk Gets Stripes

Main Idea Statement: Chipmunk got the stripes on her back when the angry Bear did not get his way.

Character(s):

Deer
Chipmunk
Raccoon
Wolf
Bear
Other forest animals

Problem:

The animals disagree whether Earth should remain in darkness or whether both light and darkness would be best.

Resolution: (Outcome)

The powerful Bear persuaded the other animals that darkness was best, because it was easier for sleeping. Chipmunk was the only one who disagreed. Chipmunk talked all night long until the sun rose the next morning. All the forest animals were amazed, except Bear who was outraged. Bear chased Chipmunk down the mountain and scratched her back with his sharp claws. That is why Chipmunk has stripes on her back today.

Name: _____

Date: _____

How Chipmunk Got Its Stripes Summarization Guided Practice



Directions: *Read the Iroquois legend that tells how the chipmunk got its stripes. Then complete a graphic organizer to summarize the story.*



A summary begins with a main idea statement and describes important ideas and events about the character, problem, and resolution of a story.

- A. Chipmunk got stripes by bringing light to Earth. Long ago, the forest animals lived in darkness. One day the animals had a meeting. They could not agree whether it was better for Earth to remain dark or get light. The animals were surprised when the sun rose the next morning. Bear scratched Chipmunk's back with his sharp claws.
- B. Long ago, the animals in the forest wondered whether it would be better to remain in darkness or bring light to Earth. The mighty Bear persuaded the other animals that it was better to live in darkness. Chipmunk talked all night long. The next morning the sun rose in the sky for the first time. All the animals were amazed at the unusual sight, except Bear.
- C. Chipmunk got his stripes when he angered Bear. The forest animals questioned whether it was best to remain in darkness or bring light to Earth. Most animals agreed with Bear, but Chipmunk disagreed. When the sun rose the next morning, the forest animals were amazed. Bear was so angry that he chased Chipmunk and scratched her back, which is how Chipmunk got her stripes.