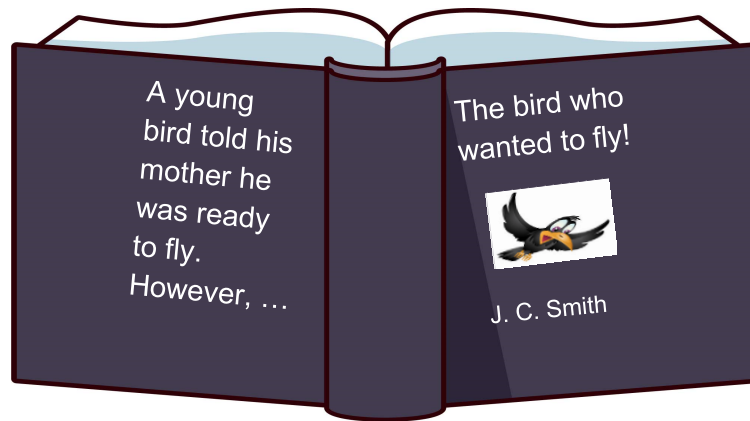


Best tips for summarizing



Have you ever seen a movie so interesting that you couldn't wait to tell your friend about it? Or read a book you felt you had to share the story? Of course, you didn't tell all of it, because you didn't want to reveal the punch.

What is a summary?

1. Summaries are meant to be **short** and told in **your own words**. The purpose is to communicate the **basic idea** of the piece and the **relevant details**. It gives the person, who has not read the story or has not seen the movie, a good idea of what it is about. You probably read a summary on the back of a book that describes the main events of the story inside. In fact, you read the summary to help you decide whether or not you are interested in that book.
2. A good summary does not give your ideas or your opinions. That would be for a review or a book critic.

Exercise

Take some novels (2-3) you have at home and read the summaries on the back.

- Which book might interest you? How do you know?

What to include in a summary?

Have you ever heard about the 6 Ws?

When you sit down to write a [summary](#), the first thing to do is read or watch the original. Make sure to pay attention to the 6Ws.

- **Who** is the story about? (main character and interaction between other characters)
- **What** is the conflict in the story? (problem)
- **When** did the story take place? (sunny day, one morning, ...)
- **Where** did the story take place? (setting)
- **Why** did the story turn out this way?
- **How** did everything get resolved? (solution)

When you write a summary for a school work, you include the solution to show your teacher/tutor/parent you understood the story. However, when you tell a summary to a friend, you don't tell it all, otherwise he won't be interested in reading it.

Exercise

The Little Red Riding Hood



You probably know the story of Little Red Riding Hood. If you need a refresher, read it again online or in a book you have at home. Make sure it is in English for your English lesson.

Take a sheet of paper and divide it in three parts: **beginning**, **middle** and **end**.

For each part, write the **6ws** as you learned earlier. When you are done, go on to the next page for possible answers.

Open the document “Dog Days” as an example of a summary.

- Can you find 5ws? Of course the solution is not included.
- Does the summary convince you enough to read the book?

Possible answers from “The Little Red Riding Hood” story.

Beginning	Middle	End
<p>One day, the Little Red Riding Hood goes to visit her grandmother, and she meets a sneaky wolf in the woods.</p> <p>One day: when? Little Red Riding Hood: who? In the woods: where? Visit her grandmother: what?</p>	<p>The wolf tricks Little Red into thinking he is her grandmother so that he can eat her.</p> <p>Problem: why did the story turn out this way?</p>	<p>In the end, a woodcutter saved Little Red and her grandmother from the wolf.</p> <p>Solution: how did everything get resolved?</p>

As you can see, it took only three sentences to summarize the story.

Remember:

- All stories have a beginning, middle and end.
- We can include “Who, What, When, Where, Why and How.
- We only tell the most important parts.
- We tell in our own words.

Final task

1. Find a book in your house or at the library. It could be a long story, a short story, a novel or a fairy tale. It has to be in English for this lesson.
2. Then summarize his story into the beginning, the middle and the end.
3. Finally, draw a new front and back cover of the book you just read. Do not simply copy the original one. You may draw it by hand or use any computer tools you have.

