

What is Summarizing?

- When summarizing, readers reduce larger selections of text to their bare essentials: the gist, the key ideas, the main points that are worth noting and remembering.
- Webster's calls a summary the "general idea in brief form"; it's the distillation, condensation, or reduction of a larger work into its key ideas.

Why Summarize?

- Important skill for readers of all levels and abilities
- Goes beyond retelling to demonstrate strong understanding of the text
- Requires readers to comprehend, analyze, and synthesize ideas
- Requires a higher level of thinking

How Do Readers Summarize?

Good readers...

- Reduce the extraneous verbiage and examples.
- Focus on the heart of the matter.
- Find key words/phrases that capture the main idea of what was read.
- Find the main ideas and the essential details that support the main idea.

Strategies for Teaching Summarizing

- Graphic Organizers
- Headlines
- GIST
- SWBST – Somebody, Wanted, But, So, Then



Graphic Organizers

- Select key words or phrases to identify the 5 W's and H:
 - Who
 - What
 - When
 - Where
 - Why
 - How

Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How

Who
What
When
Where
Why
How

Headlines

- Remove the headlines from articles from the newspaper. Have students practice writing headlines for (or matching the removed headlines to) the appropriate text.



GIST

- Write a 20-word summary of a reading selection by answering the "five Ws and H" questions -- who, what, when, where, why and how.
 - "Who is the main character of this story?"
 - "When/where does the story take place?"
 - "What happened in the story?"
 - "Why do you think the characters did what they did?"
 - "How did the character's actions impact the story?"

SWBST:

Somebody, Wanted, But, So, Then

Read a text and decide...

- Who the **somebody** is (characters)
- What that somebody **wanted** (events in the plot)
- **But** what happened to keep something from happening (conflict or problem)
- And **so**, finally, how everything works out (solutions)

Teaching SWBST: Somebody, Wanted, But, So, Then

1. Model the strategy. Explain the basic definitions for the categories depending on which variation of the chart you are using.
2. Practice using a sample text where you provide students with the information for the Somebody/Someone column.
3. After practicing as a class, allow students to work independently.

Your Turn!

Now ask yourself:

- What is summarizing?
- What are some effective ways to teach students to summarize a text?



Check for Understanding

- What is summarizing?
 - condensation or reduction of a larger work into its key ideas
- What are some effective ways to teach students to summarize a text?
 - Graphic Organizers
 - Headlines
 - GIST
 - SWBST

**** Keep in mind there are numerous effective teaching strategies but we just highlighted two here. We encourage you to continue exploring other possible strategies.*

