

A **summary** is a short restatement of a story.

- ▶ A **summary** includes the **plot main events**, **setting**, and **characters**.
- ▶ A **summary does not include** **personal opinions** or **minor events**.

Full Text	Summary
<p style="text-align: center;">The Lion & the Gnat</p> <p>"Go away, insect!" said a Lion angrily to a Gnat that was buzzing around his head as he lay in the jungle grass. But the Gnat didn't care.</p> <p>"Do you think," he said to the Lion, "that I am afraid of you because they call you king?"</p> <p>The next instant he flew at the Lion and stung him on the nose. Angry, the Lion struck fiercely at the Gnat but tore himself with his claws. Many times the Gnat stung the Lion, who now was roaring. At last, worn out and covered with wounds, the Lion gave up.</p> <p>The Gnat buzzed away to tell the world about his victory, but instead he flew straight into a spider's web. And there, he who had defeated the King of beasts came to a miserable end, the prey of a little spider.</p>	<p>A gnat was buzzing around a lion's head in the jungle. The gnat was not afraid of the lion. He stung the lion on the nose. The lion swatted at him but wounded himself with his claws. The gnat stung many times until the lion gave up. The gnat, proud of his victory, flew away. He ended up caught in a spider web as food for a little spider.</p>

CFU

What sentence would NOT be included in a summary about a story of the Three Little Pigs? Explain.

- A The wolf had gray hair and a long tail.**
- B The wolf could blow down houses.**

Why is the following sentence NOT good to be in a summary about the Lion and the Gnat? Explain. **The Gnat was terrible braggart.**

- A It is a minor event**
- B It is an opinion.**

In your own words, what is a summary?

- 1 Read the story.
- 2 Identify the setting and characters. (circle)
- 3 Identify the plot main events. (underline)
- 4 Provide a summary (write)

The Goose & the Golden Egg

There was once a man in a small town who possessed the most wonderful Goose you can imagine, for every day when he visited the nest, the Goose had laid a beautiful, golden egg. The man took the egg to market and soon began to get rich. But it was not long before he grew impatient with the Goose because she gave him only a single golden egg a day. He was not getting rich fast enough.

Then one day, after he had finished counting his money, the idea came to him that he could get all the golden eggs at once by killing the Goose and cutting it open. But when the deed was done, not a single golden egg did he find, and his precious Goose was dead.

Those who have plenty want more and so lose all they have.

Summary: _____

The Ants and the Grasshopper

One bright day in late autumn a family of Ants were bustling about in the warm sunshine, drying out the grain they had stored up during the summer, when a starving Grasshopper, his fiddle under his arm, came up and humbly begged for a bite to eat.

"What!" cried the Ants in surprise, "haven't you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?"

"I didn't have time to store up any food," whined the Grasshopper; "I was so busy making music that before I knew it the summer was gone."

The Ants shrugged their shoulders in disgust.

"Making music, were you?" they cried. "Very well; now dance!" And they turned their backs on the Grasshopper and went on with their work.

There's a time for work and a time for play.

Summary: _____

Skill Closure

- 1 Read the story.
- 2 Identify the setting and characters. (circle)
- 3 Identify the plot main events. (underline)
- 4 Provide a summary (write)

The Raven

A Raven, which you know is black as coal, was envious of the Swan, because her feathers were as white as the purest snow. The foolish bird got the idea that if he lived like the Swan, swimming and diving all day long and eating the weeds and plants that grow in the lake, his feathers would turn white like the Swan's.

So he left his home in the woods and fields and flew down to live on the lakes and in the marshes. But though he washed and washed all day long, almost drowning himself at it, his feathers remained as black as ever. And as the water weeds he ate did not agree with him, he got thinner and thinner, and at last he died.

A change of habits will not alter nature.

Summary: _____

Concept Closure

Write an explanation.

Mrs. Groupa said Mika's summary (below) of *The Raven* is missing important elements. What is Mika's summary missing? Explain your answer.

The Raven Summary

This story is about a Raven who tries to make his feathers white but dies from the effort.

Summary Closure

What did you learn today about providing a summary of a story?

Word Bank

- restatement
- plot main events
- setting
- characters
- no minor events
- no opinions

Read the story. Box the setting and characters. Underline the plot main events. Then write a summary of the story.

The Serpent & the Eagle

A Serpent surprised an Eagle who had landed in a tree near the serpent. The Serpent wrapped himself around the Eagle's neck. The Eagle could not reach the Serpent with beak or claws, so he flew into the sky trying to shake off his enemy. But the Serpent tightened his hold, and slowly the Eagle sank back to earth, gasping for breath.

A man saw this unequal fight. In pity for the noble Eagle, he rushed up and loosened the coiling Serpent to free the Eagle.

The Serpent was furious. He had no chance to bite the watchful man. Instead, he spit poison in the drinking horn, hanging at the man's belt.

The man walked toward home but got thirsty on the way. He filled his horn at a spring and was about to drink when there was a sudden rush of great wings. Sweeping down, the Eagle seized the poisoned horn from the man's hands, and flew away with it, saving the man.

An act of kindness is well repaid.

Summary: _____

The Peacock

The Peacock did not, at first, have the beautiful feathers in which he now takes so much pride. The goddess Juno granted these to him when he begged her for feathers that would distinguish him from the other birds in the barnyard. Then, gleaming with emerald, gold, purple, and azure, he strutted proudly among the birds. All envied him. Even the beautiful pheasant could see that his beauty was surpassed.

Now, the Peacock saw an Eagle flying high in the sky and felt a desire to fly, as he used to do. Lifting his wings, he tried to rise from the ground. But the weight of his magnificent new feathers held him down. Instead of flying, he would have to walk the ground like any common barnyard fowl.

Do not sacrifice your freedom for the sake of pomp and show.

Summary: _____



Listening

Listen to the story. Identify the setting and the characters. Then, give an oral summary of the story.

Characters:

Setting:

Summary:

**Reading****Read the passage.**

Box the characters and setting. Write a summary.

The Wolf and the House Dog

There was once a sad, skinny Wolf who got very little to eat because the Dogs of the village were so watchful of the sheep. One night this Wolf talked with a fat House Dog. The Wolf praised him for his looks.

"You can be as well-fed as I am if you want to," said the Dog. "Leave the woods where you have to fight for every bite. Just do what I do."

"What must I do?" asked the Wolf.

"Just keep the sheep together and be nice to the people of the house," said the House Dog. "In return you will get plenty of food."

The Wolf loved this idea. Then he noticed some marks on the Dog's neck.

"What is that on your neck?"

"Nothing at all," replied the Dog.

"But please tell me."

"Maybe you see the mark of the collar where my chain is fastened."

"What! A chain!" cried the Wolf. "Don't you go wherever you please?"

"Not always! But what's the difference?" replied the Dog.

"All the difference in the world! I don't care for your feasts nor even many lambs at that price." The Wolf ran away to the woods.

There is nothing worth so much as liberty.

Summary of the Wolf and the House Dog

**Writing**

Write a summary for this story.

The Donkey & His Shadow

A Traveler had hired a Donkey to carry him to a faraway place. The owner of the Donkey went with the Traveler, walking beside him to drive the Donkey and point out the way.

The road led across a treeless plain where the Sun beat down fiercely. The heat was so intense that the Traveler decided to stop for a rest, and the only shade was in the shadow of the Donkey.

Now the heat had affected the Driver as much as it had the Traveler, and even more, for he had been walking. Wishing also to rest in the shade cast by the Donkey, he began to quarrel with the Traveler, saying he had hired the Donkey and not the shadow it cast.

The two started to fight, and the Donkey ran away.

In quarreling about the shadow, we often lose the substance.

Summary: _____

