



# Summary Builder

**Mission:** The school newsletter wants short summaries of student-favorite stories. A good summary tells only the most important events in order, with no opinions. Sort the events, cut the minor details, and write a summary under 60 words.

**Big question:** How do I write a summary that includes only the most important events?

## ★ Warm-up: Keep it or cut it?

For the story of "Goldilocks," keep or cut each detail. Why?

Goldilocks eats the porridge. ✓ **Keep: it is a key event.**

The bowls are blue. ✓ **Cut: minor detail.**

### Key vocabulary

|                     |                                                    |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Summary</b>      | A short retelling of the most important events.    |
| <b>Minor detail</b> | A detail that doesn't change the story if removed. |
| <b>Sequence</b>     | The order events happen.                           |
| <b>Objective</b>    | Without opinions.                                  |

## 1 Box 1

### Sort the events

In the simulator: Sort every event card into Beginning, Middle, End, or Minor detail. Press Check.

Why is "The paper smelled like glue for days" a minor detail?

☐ The story would not change without it   ☐ It is at the beginning   ☐ It is not true

✓ **The story would not change without it**

## 2 Box 2

### Opinion or fact?

Which sentences belong in a summary?

Sort: Dev helps fix the broken kite. · I think Priya was mean. · This is the best story ever! · They win second place together. · The kite had red paper scales.

| Belongs in a summary                                                            | Leave it out                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dev helps fix the broken kite.</b><br><b>They win second place together.</b> | <b>I think Priya was mean.</b><br><b>This is the best story ever!</b><br><b>The kite had red paper scales.</b> |

## 3 Box 3

### Write the summary

Write a summary of "The Kite Contest" in 60 words or fewer. Include the beginning, middle, and end.

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**Look for: Names the kite; Includes the problem; Includes Dev; Includes how it was solved; Includes the ending; at least 25 words**

#### 4 Box 4

##### Summary → theme

Your summary shows how Priya changes. What theme does that suggest?

- ☐ Working together can help you do more than you could alone. ☐ Kites are hard to fly.  
☐ Little brothers are annoying.

✓ **Working together can help you do more than you could alone.**

#### 5 Box 5

##### Legend: 25-word summary 🏆 Legend only

Write a summary in 25 words or fewer that still has a beginning, middle, and end.

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**Look for: Names the kite; Includes Dev; Includes the ending; at least 12 words**

#### 6 Box 6

##### Explain your choices

Choose one detail you LEFT OUT of your summary. Explain why it didn't belong.

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**Look for: Uses the "would it change the story" test**

#### Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How do I write a summary that includes only the most important events?

**Look for: A summary retells the most important events from the beginning, middle, and end in your own words. It leaves out minor details and opinions. Asking "Would the story change without this?" helps you decide what is important.**

#### # Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

| Level          | Code starts with |
|----------------|------------------|
| 🗺 Explorer     | <b>1P6-E</b>     |
| 🔍 Investigator | <b>1H4-I</b>     |
| 🏆 Legend       | <b>18X-L</b>     |

#### ! Watch for these misconceptions

- "The theme is one word, like friendship." That is a topic.
- "A summary includes everything that happened." It includes only the most important events.
- "There is only one correct theme." Stories can have several themes if the text supports them.