

~ Summarizing Instruction Tips ~

- ★ Locate summary examples with your class:
brochures, PTA newsletters, advertisements, game instructions, book jackets, video synopsis, contest rules, catalog item descriptions, etc.
- ★ Photos or Magazine Pictures:
Devise **one**-sentence summaries (captions) that tell a "story" about the picture.
- ★ Implement real life oral summaries into classroom life, about weekend events, movies, PE class, family events. etc. Emphasize the 5 W's.
- ★ Practice summarizing DURING reading, every few paragraphs.
Use some of the author's words, and some of the reader's own words.
- ★ Use "I" in place of the main character's name, when summarizing fiction.
- ★ Write a summary after implementing a KWL. Students use the information in the "L" column and confirmed ideas in the "K" column to generate a summary of the reading selection or topic.
- ★ Using a textbook with end-of-chapter summaries, read one chapter. Write a summary together as a class, then compare it with the textbook's.

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continued

- ★ Practice highlighting or removing words, sometimes as a speed contest:
 - ◆ Highlight all of the verbs, and create a summary using synonyms for the strongest ones.
 - ◆ Highlight headings, subheadings, and topic sentences.
 - ◆ Highlight time order and text structure words and phrases.
 - ◆ Cross out single words (and, at) & trivial or repetitive detail words

- ★ Teach the FOUR RULES for producing summaries, using language that makes sense to your students:
 - ◆ Identify main idea words
 - ◆ Delete trivial and redundant words or information
 - ◆ List or outline the main idea and details
 - ◆ Relate main idea and supporting ideas verbally or in writing

- ★ Create Rubrics or lists of attributes of excellent summaries, such as:
 - ◆ The author's main idea is paraphrased clearly and completely.
 - ◆ The important details are included for each main idea
 - ◆ Unimportant and redundant information is not included
 - ◆ The summary is organized in a logical and sequential manner.

