

Teaching Notes

This mini-module focuses on summary writing. Students should understand that summaries, while always shorter than the text they are written about, can otherwise vary in length. Depending on the amount of detail required, a summary can be a couple of sentences or many paragraphs. Students should also understand that objective summaries should be free of any personal opinions. Use the information below to teach about summaries.

Activities

1. As a class, play the summary game described here:
<http://treasures.macmillanmh.com/e/teachers/building-reading-writing-skills/additional-comprehension-lessons-for-florida/the-summary-game>
2. Divide students into pairs. Ask students to summarize a popular movie without using the title or the characters' names. Their partners should try to guess the movie based on the summary.

Writing Prompt

Ask students to pick a book that they have read. Instruct them to write a one-sentence summary, a one-paragraph summary, and a three-paragraph summary of the book. Ask volunteers to read their three different summaries aloud.

Practice! Answer Key

Sample summary of Chapter 1 of *Pollyanna*:

In this excerpt from the novel Pollyanna by Eleanor H. Porter, Miss Polly Harrington, a wealthy woman who lives by herself, has a conversation in her kitchen with her new maid, Nancy. She tells Nancy that that her sister's eleven-year-old daughter, Pollyanna, is coming to live with her. Nancy knows that Miss Polly is a stern woman, and she says that a little girl might make Miss Polly more cheerful. Miss Polly stiffly responds that she doesn't want Pollyanna to live with her, but she feels that it is her duty.

Miss Polly then goes to her room and rereads a letter she received, which tells about how Pollyanna was left an orphan after her father, Rev. John Whittier, died. Miss Polly remembers how her sister, Jennie, married John Whittier against the family's wishes. The family had nothing to do with her after that, but Jennie named Pollyanna after her two sisters, Polly and Anna. Miss Polly acknowledges that although she is all alone now, she prefers it that way. She still resolves to do her duty to Pollyanna, even though she doesn't really want to.

Additional Resources

Consider these resources when teaching RL.6.2:

"How to Teach a Plot Summary in Middle School: Teaching Language Arts & More": In this video, a teacher describes how to use "mind maps" to help students visualize a summary:

<https://www.opened.com/video/how-to-teach-a-plot-summary-in-middle-school-teaching-language/736667>

“Summarizing a Text: An After Reading Strategy (Getting to the Point)”: This video provides guiding questions to help students write a summary.

<https://www.opened.com/video/summarizing-a-text-an-after-reading-strategy-getting-to/115162>

PREVIEW