

Summarize a Story

Directions

1. Remind your child that summarizing while reading is something skilled readers do to make sure they understand what they read. Summarizing means you shorten what you read to the most important ideas. To summarize, focus on main ideas and important details while reading to help you generate a summary. If you are reading a shorter text, you can summarize after you finish reading the text.
 - A **main idea** is the most important message of what you are reading. There can be more than one main idea in a text.
 - **Important details** include information that supports the main ideas.
2. Tell your child that he or she will read a text out loud and then summarize it. Ask your child to pay attention to the main ideas and important details while reading.
3. Give your child the activity sheet and the text, "A Moving Story".
 - Review the activity sheet noting that your child will summarize the beginning, middle, and end of the story using the bulleted prompts in the first column.
 - Ask your child to read the story out loud and to fill in the activity sheet while reading or after reading. He or she may look back at the text as needed.
 - Ask your child to read his or her summary out loud. Discuss your child's summary.
4. Remind your child, "You can summarize anything you read to help you understand it."

A Moving Story

Addie had lived in Happyville since she was born. Next week, however, Addie and her family were moving over 1,000 miles away to Washington. Addie despised the idea of moving for many reasons. She was sad to be leaving her best friend. She played on the soccer team for two years and didn't want to leave her team. She would not be sleeping in her bedroom, which she loved and had decorated all by herself. She just hated the whole thing.

Addie's dad had gotten a new job and said it would be good for the entire family. Her mother told Addie that there would be a lot of new things to do and people to meet. Her brother was too young to understand. How could this be good when she would not know anyone and have to go to a brand new school?

The whole situation was worse because they were moving on Addie's birthday! She was going to turn 11 and wanted to spend the day with her friends. Instead, she was going to spend her birthday packing and watching the contents of the house be put on a truck. What about her party? What about spending the day with her friends? What about what she wanted?

One morning Addie woke up and decided to try a new approach. She would make a plan about how this could actually be a good thing. The first thing she did was to tell them she rescheduled her birthday party so she could celebrate early with them. It was a special party and Addie had a blast with her friends. She also got pictures of herself with her friends. Addie also took pictures of her house, her bedroom, and her school. Then she made a list of things she could try when she got to the new town. She would join the soccer team and introduce herself to the kids at school to make friends with them. She knew that if she had the right attitude, things would turn out fine.

Summarize a Story Activity Sheet

Order of Events	My Summary
Beginning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who are the main characters?• When does the story take place?• What happens in the beginning?	Addie lives in Happyville and loves it. She plays soccer, has friends, and loves her bedroom and her home. Addie learns that her father got another job and her family has to move away.
Middle <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What happens in the middle?• What is the problem?• What does the main character do and feel?	
End <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How is the problem solved?• How does the story end?	

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One morning Addie woke up and decided to try a new approach. She would make a plan about how this could actually be a good thing. The first thing she did was to take pictures of everything that was familiar to her.

Her mom rescheduled her birthday party so she could celebrate early with her friends. It was a special party and Addie had a blast with her friends. She also got a lot of pictures of herself with her friends. Addie also took pictures of her house, her bedroom, and her school. Then she made a list of things she could try when she got to the new town. She would join the soccer team and introduce herself to the kids at school to make friends with them. She knew that if she had the right attitude, things would turn out fine.



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Middle <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What happens in the middle?• What is the problem?• What does the main character do and feel?	
End <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How is the problem solved?• How does the story end?	

Key: Summarize a Story Activity Sheet

Title: A Moving Story	
Order of Events	My Summary
Beginning <ul style="list-style-type: none">Who are the main characters?Where does the story take place?What happens in the beginning?	Addie lives in Happyville and loves it. She plays soccer, has friends, and loves her bedroom and her home. Addie learns that her father got another job and her family has to move away.
Middle <ul style="list-style-type: none">What happens in the middle?What is the problem?What does the main character do and feel?	Addie is upset because she does not want to move away from her home, her best friend, and her soccer team. The problem is not only that her family is moving, but also that they are moving on her birthday, when she was supposed to celebrate with her friends.
End <ul style="list-style-type: none">How is the problem solved?How does the story end?	Addie's mom reschedules her birthday party to an earlier date. Addie changes her attitude about the move and makes a plan to help her be happy in her new home.