

Sheet 15: Writing a 5-sentence summary

Worked example:

Read this: 'Pip the caterpillar spent all morning finding a perfect leaf. He nibbled the edge, feeling very hungry. Suddenly, a gust of wind blew his leaf away! Pip chased it across the garden, laughing as he tumbled over pebbles. Finally, he caught his lunch and settled down for a happy nap.' Summary: Pip the caterpillar searched for a leaf to eat. After finding one, a strong wind blew it away. He chased the leaf across the garden. Eventually, he caught his lunch. Pip finished his day with a happy nap.

Answer: The summary uses 5 sentences to capture the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

- **Read this paragraph about Nova: Nova the owl sat on her favourite branch, watching the stars twinkle. She noticed a bright comet streaking across the sky. Nova quickly opened her notebook to record the exact time. She felt excited to share this discovery with her friends tomorrow. It was a perfect night for stargazing in the quiet woods.**

Write a 5-sentence summary of Nova's night.

- **Check your summary above. Does it have exactly 5 sentences? Does it cover the start, the middle, and the end?**

Sentence 1: The beginning Sentence 2: The action Sentence 3: The key moment Sentence 4: The outcome
Sentence 5: The conclusion

- **Imagine Finn the dolphin found a lost map in the ocean. Write a 5-sentence summary of how he finds it and what he does next.**

Finn finds a map. He explores the reef. He meets a friend. He discovers a treasure. He returns home.

- **Why is it important to keep a summary short?**

To focus only on the most important information.

- **If you had to summarise a 500-word story about Ellie the elephant, which parts would you leave out?**

I would leave out small details and focus on the main events.

Self-check: Count your sentences to ensure you have exactly five, and check that you haven't included any unimportant details.

Ready for next: Once you can summarise any text into five clear sentences, you are ready for the final review sheet!