

Characteristics of a Summary

A summary involves paraphrasing important information from a text in a concise form. A summary is different from a retelling in that retelling generally includes more literal, factual information from the text and a summary includes only the important information related to the big picture or essence of the text.

Retelling	Summary
Readers recount as many details from a text as possible generally in a chronological or sequential order	Readers sift through important ideas from a text and paraphrase the important ideas and details in a concise form

Characteristics of a summary:

- Includes essential information from the text related to the main idea of the text
- Selective use of important information
- Important information is concise and presents the essence or big picture of a text
- Information is paraphrased or restated in a writer's own words
- Includes vocabulary specific to the topic
- Ideas are presented in a logical, meaningful organization

Adapted from:

Fountas, I.C. & Pinnell, G.S. (2001). *Guiding readers and writers grades 3-6*. Portsmouth, NH:Heinemann.

Fountas, I.C. & Pinnell, G.S (2006). *Teaching for comprehending and fluency*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.