

Steps to Writing a Story Summary

<p>1. Read and understand the prompt or writing directions. What are you being asked to write about?</p>
<p>Example: Summary of a Story</p> <p>Write a summary of the story. Your writing will be scored on how well you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identify and discuss the characters, conflict, and setting;• retell the important events of the plot (complications, climax, and resolution) in your own words, except for quotations; and• express the underlying meaning (theme) of the story;
<p>2. Read, think about, and understand the text. Review the story to make sure you know it well. Use a dictionary or context clues to figure out the meaning of any important words that you don't know.</p>
<p>3. Organize ideas. Write down the important events as they occur in the story.</p>
<p>4. Write an introduction. State the title and author of the story. Describe the setting, characters, and conflict.</p>
<p>5. Write the body paragraphs. Retell the story in your own words. Describe the most important events from the story including the climax and resolution. The number of body paragraphs you have will depend on the length of the piece.</p>
<p>6. Write a conclusion. Describe how the conflict is resolved. Explain the theme (underlying meaning of the story). What comment is the author making about humankind or society?</p>
<p>7. Revise. Have you indented all paragraphs? Have you captured the main idea of the story? Have you included the most important details? Is there sentence variety? Have you avoided writing short, choppy sentences? Are there transitional words and phrases to connect ideas?</p>
<p>8. Proofread and edit. Check your spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Is the verb tense consistent? Are all names spelled correctly and capitalized? Have you avoided writing run-on sentences and sentence fragments?</p>
<p>9. Write your draft. Use blue or black ink. Skip lines. Write on one side of the paper only. Include a title on the top line.</p>
<p>10. Read your summary one last time before you turn it in. Look for careless spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors, especially omitted words or letters. Cross out errors neatly with a single line and write the correction above.</p>

Story Summary

Introduction

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- **Start by giving some background information about the story:**
 - title
 - author's name
 - genre
 - brief description of the setting.
- **Briefly describe the main characters and how they're related to one another.**
- **Give an explanation of the conflict or problem in the story.**

Body Paragraphs

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- **The number of paragraphs in your summary depends on the length of the original story.**
- **Begin retelling the important events of the story in your own words.**
- **Use transitional words and phrases to connect ideas.**
- **Group the paragraphs into related events.**
- **Describe the climax—the most suspenseful moment in the story.**

Conclusion

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- **State the resolution of the story.**
- **Show your understanding of the story's theme—the author's underlying message.**

Story Summary for "The Bad Kangaroo"

The story "The Bad Kangaroo" by Arnold Lobel is a modern fable that takes place in the home of the kangaroo family. The main characters include the little kangaroo, his parents, and the principal at the little kangaroo's school. The little kangaroo has been behaving badly in school, so the principal decides to visit his home and talk to the little kangaroo's parents about their son's behavior. Unfortunately, the parents behave as badly as their son.

Soon after the principal arrives at the Kangaroo house, the trouble starts. First of all, Mr. Kangaroo puts a tack on the principal's chair. Then Mrs. Kangaroo throws a spit wad at the principal's nose. Also, fireworks explode in the Kangaroo's medicine cabinet, and when the principal tries to leave, he gets stuck to the glue on the doorknobs.

Finally, the principal frees himself from the doorknob and dashes down the street.

In the end, the Kangaroo family settles down to a nice evening of flying spit wads and exploding fireworks. The conflict of the story doesn't really get resolved. However, the principal has hopefully learned that children will often copy the good, and bad, behavior of their parents.