

Gr 4 English Home Language

Summary



- Tell your friend what you did yesterday.
- You may use just three to four sentences.
- Make sure you mention something you did in the morning, afternoon and evening.

Now answer the following questions, by circling your choice:

- Did you mention all of the different things or tasks you did? Yes / No
- Did you mention details like brushing your teeth or tying your shoelaces? Yes /No
- Did you mention the outstanding or important things of the day? Yes / No

What you just did, was to *summarize* your day in three to four sentences.

We often use summaries in everyday life.

For example:

- Giving your mother a message
- Telling your friend about an episode of your favourite television programme
- Summarizing your work for the exams
- Writing down your homework for the next day

What is a summary?

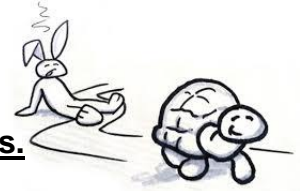
It is a longer story or passage that you retell or write much shorter, by just mentioning the important parts.

Summaries can be based on fiction (stories) or non-fiction (facts) passages.

A good summary must:

- just mention the main/most important details
- not have many examples
- be written in a clear, short sentence
- not be copied word for word





Choose the answer that best summarizes the following paragraphs.

1. *There once was a speedy hare who bragged about how fast he could run. Tired of hearing him boast, Slow and Steady, the tortoise, challenged him to a race. All the animals in the forest gathered to watch.*

- a) Once upon a time there was a hare and a tortoise.
- b) The tortoise dared the hare to a race, because he was tired of his bragging.
- c) All the animals liked to watch a good race.

2. *Some days later, while stalking his prey in the forest, the lion was caught in a hunter's net. Unable to free himself, he filled the forest with his angry roaring. The mouse knew the voice and quickly found the lion struggling in the net. Running to one of the great ropes that bound him, she gnawed and bit it until it broke, and soon the lion was free.*

- a) The lion gave an angry roar that filled the jungle .
- b) The mouse freed the lion by biting through the rope.
- c) Lion caught in hunter's net, angry roar, mouse knew the voice, lion free.

3. *Dear Diary*

Today was a great day! I woke up early, had breakfast and rushed upstairs to get dressed. My mom packed a picnic lunch and then we jumped into the car and headed to Kirstenbosch gardens. It took a long time to get there. I sat next to my brother. When we reached the gardens, we had a lovely picnic on the green lawns. We spent the afternoon there and then drove back home.

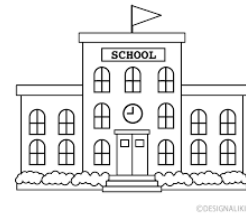
- a) The girl had a great day.
- b) It took a long time to get to the gardens.
- c) The girl and her family had a lovely picnic at Kirstenbosch

Read the passage on the famous writer Roald Dahl and answer the following questions.

Roald Dahl was born in the United Kingdom. During his school years Roald was always busy and energetic, and often ended up in trouble. One of his earliest memories is speeding to school on his tricycle. His ability to find trouble made his early school years difficult. He left his first school after putting a dead mouse in a storekeeper's candy jar, a prank that led to him being beaten by his school principal.

From there he went to boarding school and then to an excellent private school, but Dahl described his school years as being full of "horrors" as a result of the "rules, rules, rules".

Roald was not a very good student. But, his mother wanted to send him to college. But Roald refused to do. He told his mother, "No, thank you. I want to go straight from school to work for a company that will send me to wonderful faraway places like Africa or China."



1. Choose the title that best summarizes the passage.

- a) Roald Dahl, the years after school
- b) Roald Dahl's school years

2. Choose the sentence that best summarizes par. 1.

- a) Roald Dahl was born in the United Kingdom.
- b) Being a lively child, Roald was often in trouble at school.

3. Choose the sentence that best summarizes par. 2.

- a) Roald hated his school years, because there were too many rules.
- b) Roald hated his school years, because there were horrible children.

4. Write down one important thing you learn about Roald Dahl in par. 3.

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