

## Lesson Skill: Summarizing — fiction

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**Strand** Reading — Fiction

**SOL** 4.5

5.5

### Materials

- Variety of short stories
- Story Pyramid graphic organizer (attached)

### Lesson

1. Have students turn to a classmate and tell each other what they did after school, during the weekend, in a favorite class, or on a vacation/special outing. After they finish, tell them they just summarized, and they verbally summarize events all the time.
2. In pairs, have students read a short story. After they have finished reading, have them fill out the Story Pyramid graphic organizer. If students need to see a completed example of the pyramid, demonstrate with a well-known story.
3. Once students have finished the story and the story pyramid, have them write a one-paragraph summary of the story using the story pyramid to help them.

### Strategies for Differentiation

- Assign partners an excerpt from a story to read and take turns summarizing one or more paragraphs.
- Choose a familiar story to review with students; provide copies of excerpts or paragraphs from the story and five choices of summaries; have students choose the best summary.
- Use RAP strategy (Read, Ask yourself, Put it in your own words) to summarize a familiar story in 20 words or less.
- Read aloud a story, and complete a displayed story pyramid to model summarizing.
- Have students listen to recorded excerpts of short stories and choose the best summary for each.
- Enlarge chart for visually impaired.

# Story Pyramid

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1. Name of main character
2. Two words describing main character
3. Three words describing setting
4. Four words stating main problem
5. Five words about first event
6. Six words about second event
7. Seven words about third event
8. Eight words about the solution