

# TEACHING SUMMARY

## READ & RESPOND TASK CARDS



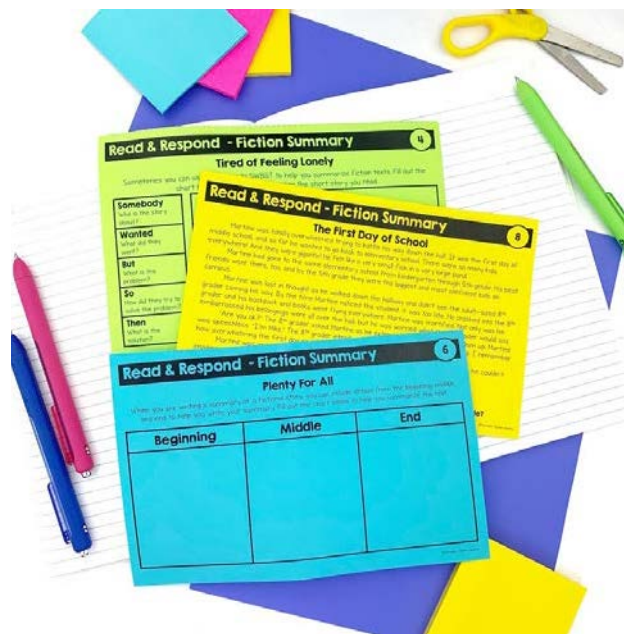
# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

This resource includes 20 reading task cards that contain short fiction passages that will help you teach, practice, and reinforce how to summarize a text.

## Task cards can be printed in three different ways.



Option #1 - Just the text



Option #2 - Text and Graphic Organizer Template



Option #3 - Text and Response Questions

**\*Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.\***

# Option #1 - Just the Text

One of the printing options for the task cards is to print JUST the text. Each task card has a short fiction reading passages (takes up half a page). The passages lend themselves to summarizing the text, but you really could use them to teach any fiction skill.

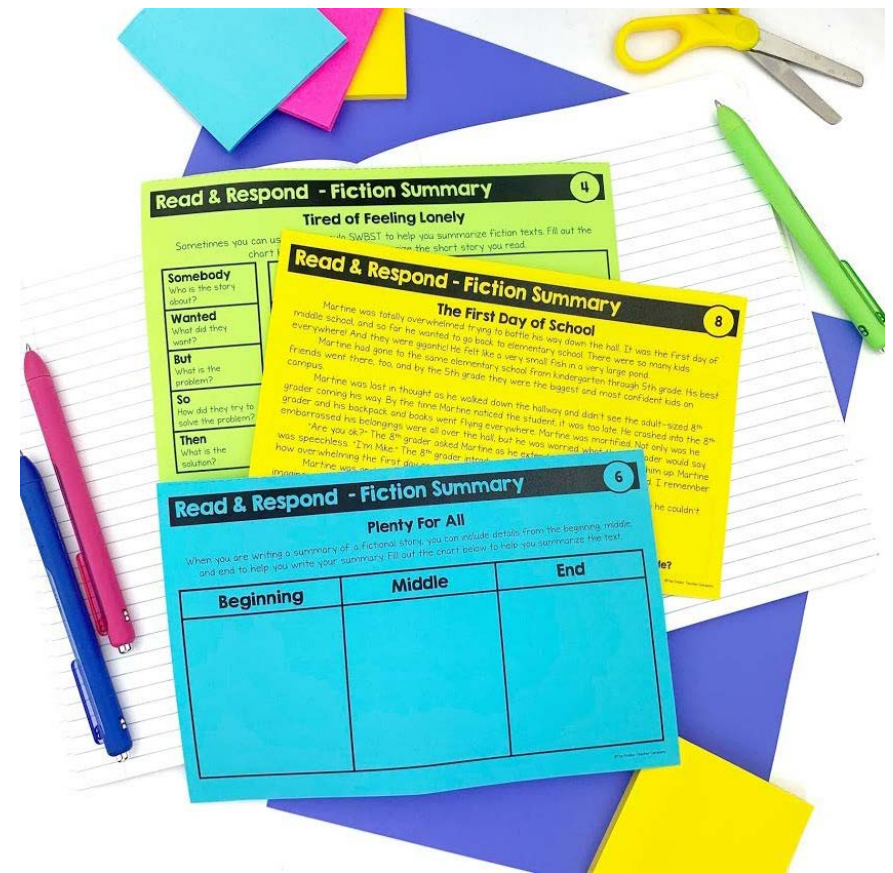


- This set of task cards is ideal if you want to use them in the “traditional” task card way.
- I suggest printing them on cardstock and either putting them all on a book ring or in a photo box.
- There are 3 options of reading response sheets included so students can read the passages and respond on a separate page.

# Option #2 - Passage & Graphic Organizer

One of the printing options includes the passage and a graphic organizer template. These task cards can be printed front and back and work great in a center, as part of your small group instruction, or even for guided practice.

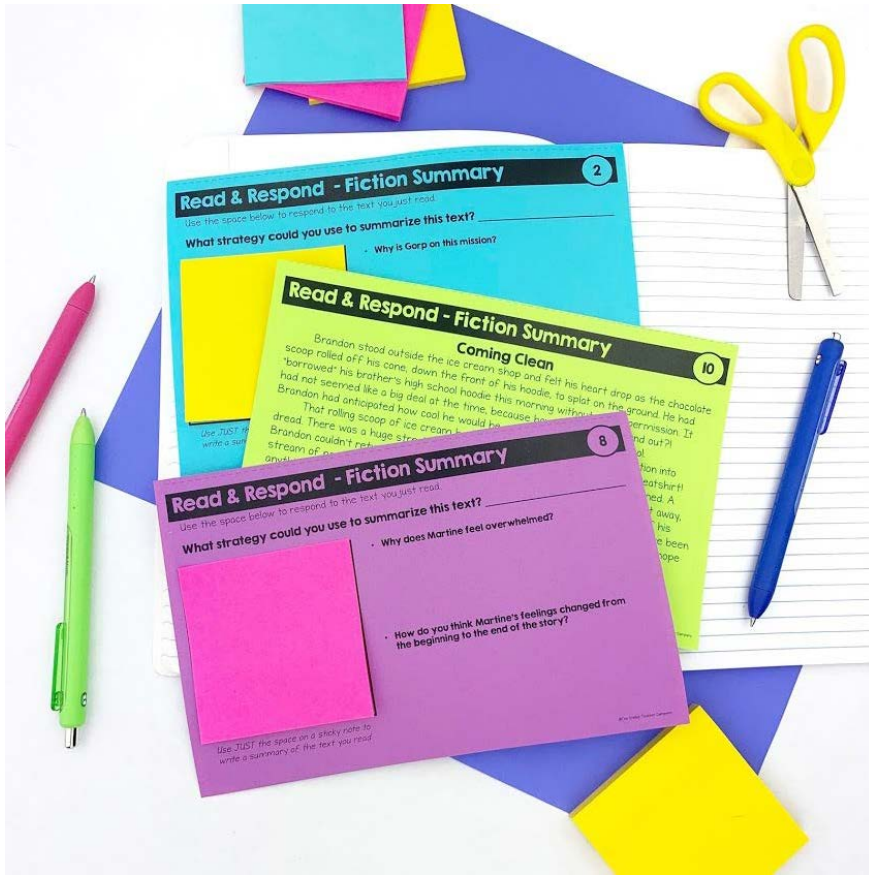
- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- The bottom of each task card includes a few questions to prompt students to think about what they would include in a summary.
- On the back, there is a graphic organizer template that will help students organize their thinking about how to summarize the text.



**\*Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.\***

# Option #3 - Passage & Response Questions

One of the printing options includes the passage and reading response questions. These task cards can be printed front and back and work great in a center, as part of your small group instruction, or even for guided practice.



- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- The bottom of each task card includes a few questions to prompt students to think about what they would include in a summary.
- On the back, there is space for a sticky note so students can jot down a summary of the text. There are also two text-based comprehension questions.

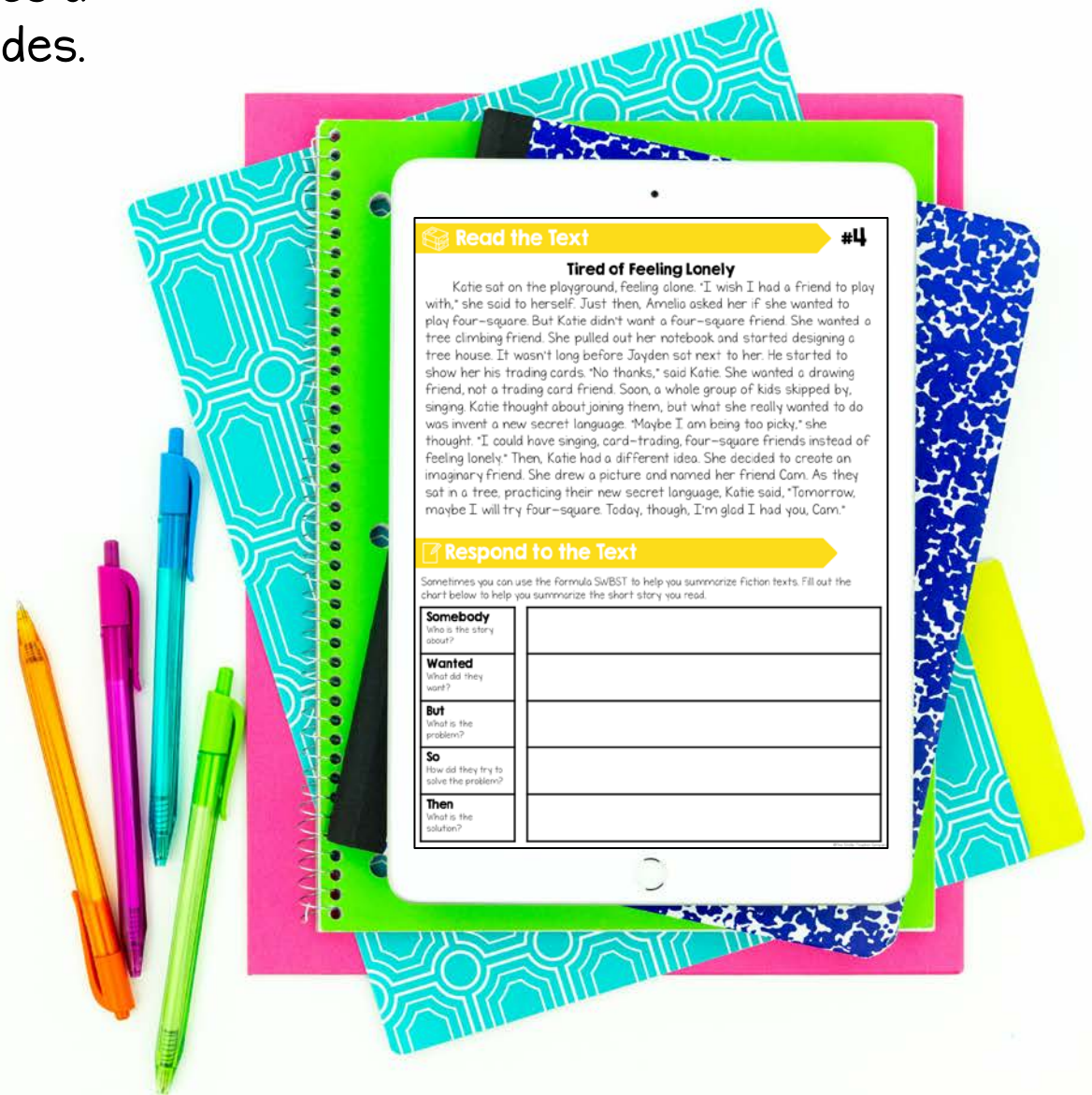
**\*Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.\***

# Includes Digital Versions

I love to provide both print and digital options in my resources. This resource includes a digital version created using Google Slides.

There are three different digital versions included (to match the three different printing options).

- **Option 1:** The text with a generic space for student response.
- **Option 2:** The text with the graphic organizer at the bottom (this one is pictured to the right)
- **Option 3:** The text with the text-based comprehension questions on the bottom.



# A LOOK INSIDE...(option 1)

## Read & Respond

1

### Coyote Plays by the Rules

Coyote hid behind the tree and giggled as he waited for Squirrel to move by. They were playing Hide and Seek, and Coyote thought he could win by moving to another spot. If his other friends were just hiding in one spot, he could outwit everyone!

Squirrel dashed by, and Coyote snuck around the tree trunk. At least he thought he was being stealthy! Squirrel whirled around and squeaked, "Coyote, what are you doing?" Coyote hung his head. "I was moving to another hiding spot, Squirrel. I really want to win."

"That is not how the game is played, Coyote!" Squirrel explained. "If you don't follow the rules, no one will want to play with you."

"I'm sorry, I promise I'll follow the rules," Coyote apologized.

Squirrel was solemn. "Playing games with your friends is supposed to be fun, Coyote. We all win when we are having a good time! Let's start this turn over and you see if you can find the best hiding spot ever."

## Read & Respond

2

### Far From Home

Gorp looked longingly out the portal of his spaceship at the vast expanse of the galaxy. Gorp's planet Nixar was in trouble. The climate was changing, and it was causing food shortages planet-wide.

As one of the mission options was to find another planet to colonize, Gorp hadn't exacted his planet was in danger. He knew it was everyone he loved on his planet as he gazed out all, he had a planet to

## Read & Respond

7

### A New Puppy

Molly and her little brother Parker jumped off the couch as the front door opened. They were getting a huge surprise today and were both very excited. Molly's dad walked in holding a squirming ball of fur. It was a puppy! Molly burst into tears because she had wanted a pet (any pet, but really a puppy would be ideal) for so long, that in this moment she was completely happy. Her dad handed her the puppy, and she hugged and petted the adorable mutt for several minutes. Taking a deep breath, she turned to Parker and held out the puppy. "Here Parker, you can have a turn holding her."

Parker looked at the puppy, burst into tears, and ran from the room with a terrified howl. Molly looked at her dad. "Well," she said, "that didn't go as planned! How can he be afraid of this sweet little angel?" Her dad laughed. "Remind me to tell you the story of the ducks at the park later on."

## Read & Respond

8

### The First Day of School

Martine was totally overwhelmed trying to battle his way down the hall. It was the first day of middle school, and so far he wanted to go back to elementary school. There were so many kids everywhere! And they were gigantic! He felt like a very small fish in a very large pond.

Martine had gone to the same elementary school from kindergarten through 5th grade. His best friends went there, too, and by the 5th grade they were the biggest and most confident kids on campus.

Martine was lost in thought as he walked down the hallway and didn't see the adult-sized 8th grader coming his way. By the time Martine noticed the student, it was too late. He crashed into the 8th grader and his backpack and books went flying everywhere. Martine was mortified. Not only was he embarrassed his belongings were all over the hall, but he was worried what the 8th grader would say.

"Are you ok?" The 8th grader asked Martine as he extended his hand out to help him up. Martine was speechless. "I'm Mike." The 8th grader introduced himself. "Let me show you around. I remember how overwhelming the first day can be. You'll get used to it."

Martine was grateful to have met a new friend, and an 8th grader at that. Although he couldn't imagine ever getting used to this many people in one place!

## Read & Respond

3

### How Do You Spend Your Time?

Fiona groaned when she saw the red marks on her math test. Her dad had encouraged her to do her best, and she thought she had. But she got 8 problems wrong! Comparing papers with her friend Marcus, Fiona saw that he only got one problem wrong.

"How did you get such a good grade?" Fiona asked. Marcus thought for a moment and replied, "I did my homework every day, asked when I had a question, and studied for the test. How did you prepare for the test?"

Fiona hadn't prepared for the test at all. She was tired after school and liked to watch TV or play video games. Then it was dinner time and time to get ready for bed. Life felt so busy.

"I don't see why this can't be easy!" she exclaimed. "Maybe if I talk to Mr. Parks he will give me a better grade."

"Or," Marcus responded, feeling a bit exasperated, "maybe you can study and earn a better grade next time."

## Read & Respond

4

### Tired of Feeling Lonely

Katie sat on the playground, feeling alone. "I wish I had a friend to play with," she said to herself. Just then, Amelia asked her if she wanted to play four-square. But Katie didn't want a four-square friend. She wanted a tree

## Read & Respond

5

### The Gathering Clouds

Sophie watched the sky with mounting terror. Grey-black clouds piled on top of each other, sure signs of a coming storm. Sophie and her family live in the Midwest, where storms are frequent and dramatic. Thunder and lightning, drenching rain, and high winds all made for a wild ride. Sophie's family were experts in disaster preparedness. But for this moment she stood rooted in place, mesmerized by the ominous sky.

Sophie's mother bustled through the kitchen, snapping her out of her trance. They automatically started going through their checklist. The basement was weather-tight, equipped with a generator and backup lights, and stocked full of provisions for a long siege. Everything was ready, but Muffin, Sophie's cat was missing. Pushing down her fear, Sophie tried to be logical. They had been through numerous storms together over the past 8 years. Then she snapped her fingers and ran to her room. Sure enough, there was a rounded lump under the comforter. Sophie grabbed Muffin and sprinted towards the basement to wait for the storm to pass.

## Read & Respond

6

### Plenty for All

"Mother Nature has been good this season!" Owl announced. "There will be plenty for all!" She sounded the signal that there would be an open shore, everyone could take as

## Read & Respond

11

### Just Another Birthday

Penny looked around her house with a critical eye. Crystal's birthday party last weekend had been a smash success. Penny felt like her house was drab and her friends would not even have fun. I mean, balloons and cupcakes for a ten-year-old? Come on! Penny rolled her eyes, sighed, and stomped towards the stairs. Her father was standing there watching her.

"What's up, buttercup?" Her dad asked with a big cheesy grin. "Daaaaad, don't call me that! This party is going to be lame. I'm going to go text my friends and tell them the party is cancelled!" Penny said with tears welling in her eyes. "Penny, your mom worked really hard to decorate the house with your favorite colors, and she stayed up late frosting the double chocolate cupcakes. YOU asked for. And these are your best friends coming, of course you'll have fun! Maybe you should cultivate some gratitude for the nice life you have, even if some people have more. Some families have far, far less than we have."

The look on her dad's face broke Penny's heart. She felt awful because he was totally right. She had the best parents and a great life. Penny decided then and there to practice being more grateful.

## Read & Respond

12

### Undercover

The spy observed the ballroom from behind the heavy stage curtain. Tasked with gathering evidence to put away a criminal mastermind, she thought about the best way to approach the situation. The room was huge, about 50 meters square, and had high, ornate ceilings leftover from the days when people actually had balls in ballrooms.

Her target was seated at a table almost all the way across the room, chatting with his wealthy tablemates. Everyone at this function had paid at least \$1,000 for their seat and a fairly ordinary meal. The spy desperately needed to hear what was being discussed at the table but had several issues. One was the fact that she was hidden behind a curtain. Another was the way she was dressed - in tight, black clothes designed for sneaking. Not exactly appropriate for a fancy dinner.

Just when she was about to give up, something caught her eye. She looked up and saw an air conditioning vent that was identical to the one just above the criminal's dinner table. It wasn't guaranteed, but maybe this vent would lead her directly to her target. Without hesitation she climbed inside the vent and continued her mission.

## Read & Respond

13

### Watching The Light

Soft light filters through the east-facing window. This time of day always reminds Grandmother Anh of growing up in Vietnam. The morning sun would peek over the mountains and slowly light up her village in the valley. But that was long ago.

Anh lives in San Francisco now, with her son and his family. She is very happy and loves caring for her grandchildren. San Francisco has a vibrant Vietnamese community that makes her feel very welcome. Anh's days are busy and full of purpose. But today is going to be hard, so she is taking some extra moments to prepare.

Many from her village had emigrated to America, including her oldest friend. They had shared many of their most important life experiences, both good and bad. Today Anh will have to say goodbye to her after a long battle with cancer. She is using these moments in her sanctuary to relive happy memories of her childhood friend and Vietnam.

## Read & Respond

14

### A View From Above

Madeline took in the view from outside the window and had to blink back tears. It was so amazing! Traveling through outer space was beautiful, and to finally be there felt like an honor.

Madeline had known she wanted to be an astronaut since she was 3 years old. When her mom read her stories about Sally Ride and Mae Jemison, Madeline imagined what it would be like to follow in their footsteps.

Unlike other children, whose life dreams changed like shirts, Madeline pursued her dream with focus. She made math and science her priority in school. She worked hard to be athletic because fitness is an important part of being an astronaut. None of it really even felt like work. Everything she needed to do Madeline did to achieve this very moment, manning the first space mission to Mars.

Madeline watched Earth recede as the shuttle got farther away. Earth was her first home, but Mars was her destiny.

# A LOOK INSIDE...(option 2)

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary 1**

**Coyote Plays by the Rules**

Coyote hid behind the tree and giggled as he waited for Squirrel to run by. They were playing Hide and Seek, and Coyote thought he could win by moving to another spot. If his other friends were just hiding in one spot, he could outwit everyone!

Squirrel dashed by, and Coyote snuck around the tree trunk. At least he thought he was being stealthy! Squirrel whirled around and squeaked, "Coyote, what are you doing?" Coyote hung his head. "I was moving to another hiding spot, Squirrel. I really want to win."

"That is not how the game is played Coyote!" Squirrel explained. "If you don't follow the rules, no one will want to play with you."

"I'm sorry. I promise I'll follow the rules," Coyote apologized.

Squirrel was solemn. "Playing games with your friends is supposed to be fun, Coyote. We all win when we are having a good time! Let's start this turn over and you see if you can find the best hiding spot ever."

**THINK:**

- What happened in the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?
- What details would you include in a summary? What details would you exclude?

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary 3**

**How Do You Spend Your Time?**

Fiona groaned when she saw the red marks on her math test. Her dad had encouraged her to do her best, and she thought she had. But she got 8 problems wrong! Comparing papers with her friend Marcus, Fiona saw that he only got one problem wrong.

"How did you get such a good grade?" Fiona asked. Marcus thought for a moment and replied, "I did my homework every day, asked when I had a question, and studied for the test. How did you prepare for the test?"

Fiona hadn't prepared for the test at all. She was tired after school and liked to watch TV or play video games. Then it was dinner time and time to get ready for bed. Life felt so busy.

"I don't see why this can't be easy!" she exclaimed. "Maybe if I talk to Mr. Parks he will give me a better grade."

"Or," Marcus responded, feeling a bit exasperated, "maybe you can study and earn a better grade next time."

**THINK:**

- What happened in the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?
- What details would you include in a summary? What details would you exclude?

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary 5**

**The Gathering Clouds**

Sophie watched the sky with mounting terror. Grey-black clouds piled in on top of each other, sure signs of a coming storm. Sophie and her family live in the Midwest, where storms are frequent and dramatic. Thunder and lightning, drenching rain, and high winds all made for a wild ride. Sophie's family were experts in disaster preparedness. But for this moment she stood rooted in place, mesmerized by the ominous sky.

Sophie's mother bustled through the kitchen, snapping her out of her trance. They automatically started going through their checklist. The basement was weather-tight, equipped with a generator and backup lights, and stocked full of provisions for a long siege. Everything was ready, but Muffin, Sophie's cat was missing. Pushing down her fear, Sophie tried to be logical. They had been through numerous storms together over the past 8 years. Then she snapped her fingers and ran to her room. Sure enough, there was a rounded lump under the comforter. Sophie grabbed Muffin and sprinted towards the basement to wait for the storm to pass.

**THINK:**

- What happened in the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?
- What details would you include in a summary? What details would you exclude?

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary 2**

**Far From Home**

Gorp looked longingly out the portal of his spaceship at the vast expanse of the galaxy. Gorp's planet Nixar was in trouble. The climate was changing, and it was causing food shortages planet-wide.

As one of the most talented scientists on Nixar, Gorp was on a mission. One nation was to find a solution to the problem for the Grendar people to help them survive on his planet, and he was terrified. When the government asked him to do it, if he didn't find a solution, he couldn't help but feel lonely. Taking a deep breath, Gorp decided to save the planet.

**THINK:**

- What happened in the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?
- What details would you include in a summary? What details would you exclude?

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary 4**

**Tired of Feeling Lonely**

Katie sat on the playground, feeling alone. "I wish I had a friend to play with," she said to herself. Just then, Armelia asked her if she wanted to play four-square. But Katie didn't want a four-square friend. She wanted a tree climbing friend. She

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary 6**

**Plenty for All**

"Mother Nature has been good this season!" Owl announced. "There will be plenty for all!" She sounded the signal that there would be an open share, everyone could take as much as they needed. As the forest creature of the forest, he could

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary 1**

**Coyote Plays by the Rules**

When you are writing a summary of a fictional story, you can include details from the beginning, middle, and end to help you write your summary. Fill out the chart below to help you summarize the text.

Beginning	Middle	End

**THINK:**

- What happened in the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?
- What details would you include in a summary? What details would you exclude?

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary 3**

**How Do You Spend Your Time?**

When you summarize a text, you want to include important details and exclude details that aren't essential to the story. Use the space below to write down a few details you would include and exclude when writing a summary.

Details to Include	Details to Exclude

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary 5**

**The Gathering Clouds**

When you summarize a story, it can be helpful to think about the 5Ws. Use the chart below to help you think about the important details from the story.

WHO	Who is the story about?
WHAT	What major event/problem is happening?
WHEN	When does this story take place?
WHERE	Where does this story take place?
WHY	Why are the characters acting this way?

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary 2**

**Far From Home**

When you are writing a summary of a fictional story, you can include the basic story elements to help you write your summary. Fill out the chart below to help you summarize the text.

<b>C</b> Who is this story about?	Where does this story take place?
<b>P</b> What is the problem?	<b>S</b> What is the solution?
<b>T</b> What is the theme?	

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary 4**

**Tired of Feeling Lonely**

Sometimes you can use the formula SWBST to help you summarize fiction texts. Fill out the chart below to help you summarize the short story you read.

<b>Somebody</b> Who is the story about?	
<b>Wanted</b> What did they want?	
<b>But</b> What is the problem?	
<b>So</b> How did they try to solve the problem?	
<b>Then</b> What is the solution?	

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary 6**

**Plenty For All**

When you are writing a summary of a fictional story, you can include details from the beginning, middle, and end to help you write your summary. Fill out the chart below to help you summarize the text.

Beginning	Middle	End



# A LOOK INSIDE...(option 3)

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary** 1

**Coyote Plays by the Rules**

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Squirrel dashed by, and Coyote snuck around the tree trunk. At least he thought he was being stealthy! Squirrel whirled around and squeaked, "Coyote, what are you doing?" Coyote hung his head. "I was moving to another hiding spot, Squirrel. I really want to win."

"That is not how the game is played Coyote!" Squirrel explained. "If you don't follow the rules, no one will want to play with you."

"I'm sorry. I promise I'll follow the rules." Coyote apologized.

Squirrel was solemn. "Playing games with your friends is supposed to be fun, Coyote. We all win when we are having a good time! Let's start this turn over and you see if you can find the best hiding spot ever."

**THINK:**

- What happened in the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?
- What details would you include in a summary? What details would you exclude?

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary** 3

**How Do You Spend Your Time?**

Fiona groaned when she saw the red marks on her math test. Her dad had encouraged her to do her best, and she thought she had. But she got 8 problems wrong! Comparing papers with her friend Marcus, Fiona saw that he only got one problem wrong.

"How did you get such a good grade?" Fiona asked. Marcus thought for a moment and replied, "I did my homework every day, asked when I had a question, and studied for the test. How did you prepare for the test?"

Fiona hadn't prepared for the test at all. She was tired after school and liked to watch TV or play video games. Then it was dinner time and time to get ready for bed. Life felt so busy.

"I don't see why this can't be easy!" she exclaimed. "Maybe if I talk to Mr. Parks he will give me a better grade."

"Or," Marcus responded, feeling a bit exasperated, "maybe you can study and earn a better grade next time."

**THINK:**

- What happened in the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?
- What details would you include in a summary? What details would you exclude?

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary** 5

**The Gathering Clouds**

Sophie watched the sky with mounting terror. Grey-black clouds piled in on top of each other, sure signs of a coming storm. Sophie and her family live in the Midwest, where storms are frequent and dramatic. Thunder and lightning, drenching rain, and high winds all made for a wild ride. Sophie's family were experts in disaster preparedness. But for this moment she stood rooted in place, mesmerized by the ominous sky.

Sophie's mother bustled through the kitchen, snapping her out of her trance. They automatically started going through their checklist. The basement was weather-tight, equipped with a generator and backup lights, and stocked full of provisions for a long siege. Everything was ready, but Muffin, Sophie's cat was missing. Pushing down her fear, Sophie tried to be logical. They had been through numerous storms together over the past 8 years. Then she snapped her fingers and ran to her room. Sure enough, there was a rounded lump under the comforter. Sophie grabbed Muffin and sprinted towards the basement to wait for the storm to pass.

**THINK:**

- What happened in the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?
- What details would you include in a summary? What details would you exclude?

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary** 2

**Far From Home**

Gorp looked longingly out the portal of his spaceship at the vast expanse of the galaxy. Gorp's planet Nixar was in trouble. The climate was changing, and it was causing food shortages planet-wide.

As one of the most talented scientists on Nixar, Gorp was on a mission. One nation was to find a solution to the problem for the Grendar people to save their planet.

Gorp hadn't exactly enjoyed his planet, and he was terrified. When the government asked to do it, if he didn't find a solution, he couldn't help but feel lonely. Taking a deep breath, Gorp decided to save his planet.

**THINK:**

- What happened in the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?
- What details would you include in a summary? What details would you exclude?

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary** 4

**Tired of Feeling Lonely**

Katie sat on the playground, feeling alone. "I wish I had a friend to play with," she said to herself. Just then, Amelia asked her if she wanted to play four-square. But Katie didn't want a four-square friend. She wanted a tree climbing friend. She wanted a friend who could climb trees like she could.

**THINK:**

- What happened in the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?
- What details would you include in a summary? What details would you exclude?

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary** 6

**Plenty for All**

"Mother Nature has been good this season!" Owl announced. "There will be plenty for all!"

She sounded the signal that there would be an open share, everyone could take as much food as they wanted. Jackrabbit was elated. As the fastest creature at the moment, he could

**THINK:**

- What happened in the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?
- What details would you include in a summary? What details would you exclude?

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary** 1

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

**What strategy could you use to summarize this text?**

Explain what Coyote was doing at the beginning of the story?

Why did Coyote decide to play by the rules?

Use JUST the space on a sticky note to write a summary of the text you read.

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary** 3

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

**What strategy could you use to summarize this text?**

Why was Marcus "exasperated" with Fiona?

What advice would you give Fiona to improve her math grade?

Use JUST the space on a sticky note to write a summary of the text you read.

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary** 5

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

**What strategy could you use to summarize this text?**

How do you think Sophie feels about storms? What makes you say that?

How do you think Sophie knew to look under the comforter?

Use JUST the space on a sticky note to write a summary of the text you read.

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary** 2

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

**What strategy could you use to summarize this text?**

Why is Gorp on this mission?

What details in the text tell you what Gorp is doing?

Use JUST the space on a sticky note to write a summary of the text you read.

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary** 4

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

**What strategy could you use to summarize this text?**

Who are all the people that tried to be friends with Katie?

Why didn't Katie want to be friends with any of the kids on the playground?

Use JUST the space on a sticky note to write a summary of the text you read.

**Read & Respond - Fiction Summary** 6

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

**What strategy could you use to summarize this text?**

What was Gorilla's main concern? How was this different than Jackrabbit's?

What does it mean that Jackrabbit realized the "healthiest thing to do would be to give Auntie the food he had gathered"?

Use JUST the space on a sticky note to write a summary of the text you read.

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