WRITING A SUMMARY

A summary is a condensed statement of the main ideas of a reading selection. Being able to summarize what you have read is an important skill. It will help you understand and remember what you have read.

**FIRST PARAGRAPH:**

* Title (Be sure to underline it and capitalize important words.)
* Author
* Describe where the story takes place.
* Name the main (most important) characters.
* Describe the main idea of the book/the theme of the book.

**SECOND PARAGRAPH:**

* Explain how the story begins.
* Describe the first conflict that is introduced in the story. How did the problem begin?
* Which characters are involved in the conflict?
* Is the conflict resolved? If so, how? If not, why do you think the author left the problem unresolved.

**THIRD AND FOURTH PARAGRAPHS:**

* What happens in the middle of the book?
* Describe the second and third conflicts that are introduced in the story. How did the problems begin?
* Which characters are involved in the conflicts?
* Are these conflicts resolved? If so, how? If not, why do you think the author left the problems unresolved.

**FIFTH PARAGRAPH:**

* Explain how the story ends **in detail**.

**FINAL PARAGRAPH:** Evaluate the book and conclude your summary.

* Tell why you like or dislike the book.
* Support your reaction with specific examples from the book.
* To whom would you recommend this book? Why?

**\*\* REMINDERS\*\***

* Be sure to proofread for spelling, grammar, and punctuation mistakes.
* Please write neatly in blue or black ink or pencil.
* Don’t forget to write in paragraphs.