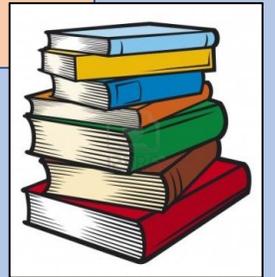


R4c. Can summarise the main points from a passage or text

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Teacher Notes

- In this therapy, pupils think about the information contained in a text.
- They practise distinguishing key information from additional information and descriptive language.
- They investigate cutting superfluous information out of a text to see what is left.
- Finally, they look at summarising texts using their own words.
- Throughout the therapy, there are opportunities for pupils to discuss and practise the taught skills.

Writing often contains a mixture of information. There is the main or key information. There might be additional information to make it more interesting. There might also be descriptive language to make it more enjoyable for the reader.

Read this text. Then click to see where **key information**, **additional information** and **descriptive language** are shown.

It was a dark, still night. **The young, hungry mouse** scurried across the kitchen floor, looking for something to eat. Suddenly, **a fat, ginger cat** leapt out of his hiding place beside the swing-bin and **caught the mouse** under his paw.

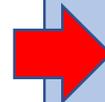
Sorting the main points of a text from the other information

Read this text:

It was a lovely, sunny day. Wearing only shorts and a light blue tee-shirt, Kemi raced down the path to the park. Thankfully, no one was using the tall swing with the blue, plastic seat. Kemi jumped on and pushed off with his feet, determined to go higher than ever before.

Discussion

Which parts are key information, which are additional information and which are descriptive language?



It was a lovely, sunny day.

Kemi went to the park and played on the swing.

... with the blue, plastic seat.

Sorting the main points of a text from the other information

Your turn – read this text, then link the text to the information type.

Just in time! Giselle heard the doors swish shut as she took her seat on the dirty, smelly train. When the guard entered the carriage, she checked her pockets with growing panic. Surely, this couldn't be happening to her – she had lost her ticket!

key information

additional information

descriptive language

... dirty, smelly train

... heard the doors swish shut as she took her seat...

Giselle lost her train ticket.

How can you summarise the main points of a text?

The main points of a text are the most important information. It's like what you might tell someone if you were in a hurry. If you cut out all of the additional information and descriptive language, you should be left with the main points.

Read this text. Then click to see what additional information could be cut out to leave just the main points.

~~Hello! How lovely to hear from you! I can't wait to see you again after all this time. Why don't we get together for a chat? Meet me at Gino's Café at 5 o'clock on Monday. I promise to buy you a big cake and a long, cold drink.~~

How can you summarise the main points of a text?

Your turn. Read this text and discuss what additional information you could cut out. See whether you agree with your partner as to what should be left as the main points.

~~This had never happened to her before. Yes, she had worked hard in training, but you never know how good you are until you put yourself to the test. Yet here she was, gasping for air, but with a huge smile on her face. Lizzie had won the race! Soon, she was surrounded by friends and family as they celebrated her victory.~~

Summarising a text in your own words

As we know, the main points of a text are the most important information. Often, you can't just 'lift' a sentence or phrase straight from a text, so you have to put the key points into your own words.

Read this text.
Then click to
see how it
could be
summarised in
one sentence.

High in the mountains of Asia lives one of the most beautiful yet rare predators in the animal kingdom. One of the big cats, the snow leopard has thick, pale fur with dark markings to keep out the cold and help it hide amongst the rocks.

The snow leopard is a big cat that lives in the mountains of Asia.

Summarising a text in your own words

Your turn – read this text. Then summarise it in one sentence. Is yours similar to your partner's? Discuss to see whether you agree and how you could make the best possible summary between you.

Ben and Ajay stared at the log that was lying across the stream. It looked strong enough to hold their weight, but it was quite narrow. "I'll go first," said Ben and he started to edge along the log, carefully putting one foot in front of the other. Halfway across, a sudden gust of wind knocked him off balance and he fell in. It wasn't deep, but his clothes were soaking. Mum was not going to be happy.

Summarising a text in your own words

Now have another go – read this text, then summarise it in one sentence. Is yours similar to your partner's? Discuss to see whether you agree and how you could make the best possible summary between you.

Sid the squirrel sat on the branch, staring through the window into the kitchen. There, on the table, was a bowl of fruit and nuts. Delicious! Especially the nuts. He had already seen Tiddles the cat leave for his evening hunting trip. Now that the room was empty, he seized his chance. He scampered down the tree, dashed across the grass, crashed through the cat flap and climbed onto the table. Snatching the biggest nut he could hold in his mouth, he shot back through the cat flap and back up his tree.

So, when you are reading, think about what the **main points** of the text are.

Key information: This is what you would say the text is about if you were in a hurry.

Additional information and descriptive language: Enjoy the extra details, but think about whether they are really important.

Practise summarising: Think about how you would cut out the extra information and say what the main points are in a sentence or two.