

Book Report (Create Summary)

LANGUAGE ARTS



Book Builder

Overview

Students summarise a book they have read as a short illustrated book of their own, distinguishing main events from details.

Steps for Teachers

1. Students finish reading their chosen book
2. Students list every major event, then cut the list down to the six that matter most
3. Students plan one page per event, in order
4. Students write each page in their own words — no copying sentences from the original
5. Students choose actors and backgrounds that represent the characters and settings
6. Students make page one a title page showing the title and author of the original book
7. Students add a final page giving their opinion and who they would recommend it to
8. Students present their summary books to the class

Example

A student summarises 'Charlotte's Web' in six pages: Wilbur is born the runt, Fern saves him, he meets Charlotte, the word SOME PIG appears in the web, Wilbur wins at the fair, Charlotte dies and her children hatch. The last page reads: 'I would give this book to someone who has ever had to say goodbye.'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Main Idea vs. Detail	Captures the essential events; no important plot point is missing or padded	Captures most key events with some detail crowding out substance	Summary is a list of details or misses major events
Original Wording	Entirely in the student's own words	Mostly original with a few borrowed phrases	Largely copied from the source
Storytelling	Clear beginning, middle and end; each page turn moves the story forward	Story is organized but some pages stall or repeat	Story is disorganized or hard to follow
Book Craft	Text is easy to read, art supports every page, and the layout is consistent throughout	Pages are readable with some crowding or uneven placement	Text overlaps art or is hard to read; layout is inconsistent