



## *Essential Focus Lessons for Summarizing*

---

The following are essential focus lessons for *Summarizing*. Select those lessons that are most appropriate for your grade level.

- Good readers decide what to pay close attention to when reading.
- Good readers highlight or make a note of important words and phrases (not whole sentences!).
- Good readers jot notes in the margin or on sticky notes to think about and remember important information in the text.
- Good readers recognize that information that surprises you is usually information that is being learned.
- Good readers understand that there are usually many pieces of important information in a text (rather than just one main idea).
- Good readers recognize what is important from the perspective of the author.
- Good readers understand that there may be a difference in what is important to a reader and to the author of a text.
- Good readers distinguish between what is *important* and what is *interesting*.
- Good readers know that when forming an opinion, judgment, or argument based on reading, it is important to consider more than one perspective on a topic (e.g., reading multiple texts about the arrival of Columbus).
- Good readers use think sheets (three column chart, web, etc.) to organize their thinking about a text.
- Good readers talk to other readers about the important information they uncover in a text.
- Good readers retell to summarize important information.
- Good readers paraphrase to summarize sections of text (e.g., making notes in the margin or on stickies).
- Good readers compare and contrast (using tools like a three-column thinksheet) to better understand text while summarizing.
- Good readers add a personal response while summarizing text.
- Good readers distinguish between the summary and the reader's thinking about the text.