Y6 Summarising

KS2 Y6 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Summarise paragraph 1 in no more than 12 words.

Step 1 · What is it mostly about?

The Thames smelled terrible in 1858.

Step 2 · Why?

Waste flowed into the river.

Step 3 · Combine and count

In 1858, waste in the Thames made London smell terrible. (10 words)

Answer: In 1858, waste in the Thames made London smell terrible.

Check: No quotations or extra details needed.

2. Now try one with the steps

Order these events happen in the text: (a) Bazalgette designs sewers (b) the river starts to stink (c) cholera becomes less common (d) MPs hang curtains.

Step 1 · Find each event's paragraph

Step 2 · Put them in paragraph order

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is a summary?

2. What is paragraph 1 mainly about?

3. What is paragraph 2 mainly about?

4. What is paragraph 3 mainly about?

5. What is paragraph 4 mainly about?

6. Give paragraph 5 a short heading.

7. Is 'The curtains were soaked in chemicals' a main idea or a detail?

8. Which paragraphs describe the problem?

9. Number these in text order: cholera becomes rarer; Parliament acts; the river stinks.

10. Summarise paragraphs 4 and 5 in one sentence.

11. Suggest a title for the whole text other than 'The Great Stink'.

12. Why is 'Cholera is a disease' a weak summary of paragraph 3?

13. Summarise the whole text in no more than 20 words.

14. How many paragraphs describe the solution and its result?

4. Before you hand it in

Retelling everything: 'First it was hot, then the river smelled, then MPs got curtains, then...'
Ask what the section is mostly about.

Choosing a summary that matches one detail.
Check each option against every paragraph in the section.

Adding your own opinions: 'The Victorians were disgusting.'
Stick to what the text says.

Copying long sentences from the text.
Use short phrases in your own words.