

Big Idea Summary

A summary is a short retelling of a story. It includes the big ideas from the story, not details.

<p>✓ Big Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main characters (<i>who the story is mostly about</i>) • Plot (<i>what the main character does</i>) • Conflict (<i>the problem</i>) • Resolution (<i>the solution</i>) 	<p>✗ Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptions • Events that don't connect to the conflict or resolution • Background information • Minor characters
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Directions: Read the short story below. Then answer the questions that follow.

Jody is a young woman who absolutely adores dogs. She owns a papillon named Louie, a chihuahua named Isabella, and a Siberian husky named Koda. Every weekend she takes her dogs to the dog park where they love to run, play catch, and meet other dogs. When Jody took her pets to the park last Saturday, she almost lost poor little Louie. She was playing catch with Koda when she lost sight of Louie. In a panic, she started shouting his name and asked other dog owners if they saw her little papillon. After 30 minutes of searching and with the help of another dog owner, she finally found him at the entrance of the dog park near a small store that sells Louie's favorite treats. Jody was delighted when she found Louie and bought all three of her dogs their favorite treats.

Directions: Decide which underlined story parts are *big ideas* and which ones are *details*.

Circle one

- | | | |
|--|----------|--------|
| 1. Jody | big idea | detail |
| 2. <u>they love to run, play catch, and meet other dogs</u> | big idea | detail |
| 3. Jody took her pets to the park | big idea | detail |
| 4. <u>she almost lost poor little Louie</u> | big idea | detail |
| 5. <u>She was playing catch with Koda</u> | big idea | detail |
| 6. <u>she finally found him</u> | big idea | detail |
| 7. <u>she bought all three of her dogs their favorite treats</u> | big idea | detail |

Main Character Who is the story mostly about?	Plot What did the main character do?	Conflict What was the problem?	Resolution How was the problem solved?

Directions: Use the paragraph frame to write a three-sentence summary. You might have to take out or add some words so that the sentences make sense.

_____ (character) _____ (plot) _____

But, _____ (conflict) _____

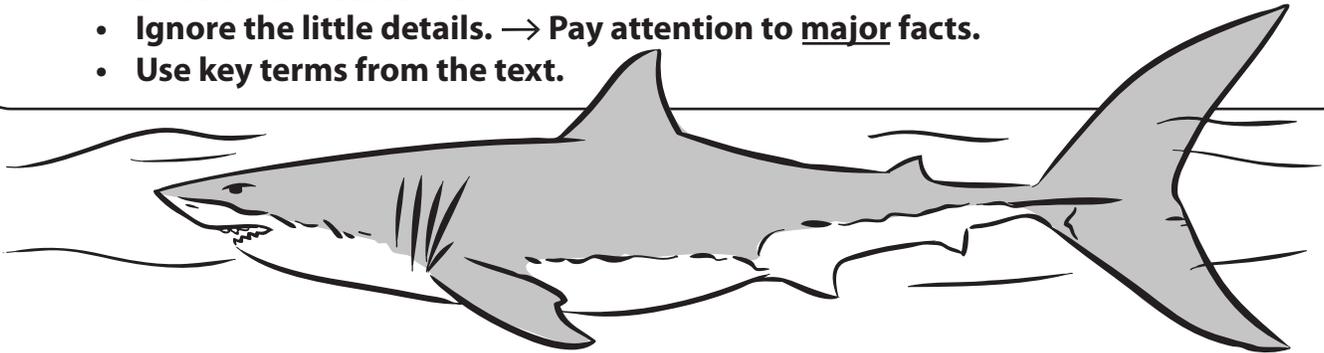
Then, _____ (resolution) _____

Writing a Nonfiction Summary: Sharks

A summary is a short description of the most important ideas and information in a text. A good nonfiction summary focuses on the important details and facts that help you best understand the text.

Tips:

- **Include the main idea.**
- **Ignore the little details. → Pay attention to major facts.**
- **Use key terms from the text.**



Sharks are known as the fiercest fish in the ocean. Sharks have been around for about 400 million years and are the top ocean predators. At the top of the food chain, sharks are feared by swimmers. However, these fish are also fascinating creatures.

You probably know sharks have very sharp teeth, but did you know they never run out of them? If a shark loses a tooth, another moves forward from within the shark's jaw where it keeps a nearly unlimited supply of replacement teeth. This way, it's almost impossible for a shark to end up without a full set of teeth. This is a phenomenon unique to the shark. No other animal in the world has teeth quite like the shark's. A shark can go through as many as 20,000 teeth in its lifetime!

While sharks have a reputation for being fierce and dangerous, not all sharks are ferocious carnivores. Some of the largest sharks are the most harmless. For example, the basking shark and the whale shark are two of the largest types of sharks, but they eat plankton. These sharks could be considered "gentle giants."

Some sharks are truly dangerous. The great white shark and the tiger shark are just two of the most well-known hunters. On the other hand, humans are also hunters. People kill thousands of sharks a year to make food and products to sell. Who do you think are the most dangerous predators?

Directions: Write a 3-4 sentence summary on the lines below.

Answers will vary

Sharks are unique animals. Some sharks are actually harmless to humans, while some are dangerous. Sharks have special abilities that help them always have teeth. Sharks are often hunted by people.