

Dream World School, Ballari, Karnataka

'The School that Learns'

English Summary Writing

Introduction

Summarizing involves shortening of a text into a brief one. A summary is usually written in two ways. They are descriptive and evaluative.

- **Descriptive:** A writer uses a descriptive summary when he or she wants to gain and express an understanding of what the author said in the original text.
- **Evaluative:** A writer will choose this summary type when he or she wants to examine the original text for usefulness, validity, strength of argument, or other important elements.

A summary or précis should be clear, brief and express only the main points of the text.

Meaning

A précis is the gist or main theme of a text expressed in as few words as possible. It should be lucid, succinct (to the point) and include all essential points.

Guidelines for 'Summarizing a Novel'

1. First carefully read the chapter(s)/section(s) and comprehend clearly its main theme or general meaning.
2. Make sure of the meaning of each sentence, phrase and word.
3. Select and note down the important points essential to the expression of the main theme.
4. Write one or two sentences summary of each section/chapter.
5. Write out the first draft and express the gist of the section/chapter in your own words. **(Do not use the actual words from the passage.)**
6. Ensure, it is written without missing any key aspects.
7. Write a paragraph (or more): begin with the overall summary sentence and follow it with the section summary sentences.
8. Revise the draft and compare it carefully with the original to see that you have included all the important points.
9. Rewrite and rearrange your paragraph(s) as needed to make your writing clear and concise, to eliminate relatively minor or repetitious points, and to provide transitions.
10. Make sure your summary includes all the major supporting points of each idea. The final version should be a unified, complete, and coherent whole.

Sample Summary of the Novel

Title: Angry River

Author: Ruskin Bond

Publisher: Rupa Publications India Pvt. Ltd.

Characters: Sita, Sita's grandparents and Krishan

Sita's family

1. Sita lived with her grandparents on an island in a small hut.
2. She lost her mother when she was small.
3. Her father had gone to work in a factory.
4. Sita made a rag doll as her companion.
5. They raised goats and hens. They had a melon and a vegetable patch and caught fishes.

Facing the flood

1. Sita's grandmother fell ill.
2. Her grandfather took grandma to the hospital.
3. Sita was left alone on the island.
4. As the monsoon was on, it rained heavily and the island was flooded.
5. Sita packed all the valuable things in a trunk to save them.
6. She took shelter on the peepul tree, the only tree that stood in between the rocks.
7. A crow's presence on the tree brought some cheer to Sita.
8. The tree got uprooted from the ground and fell into the river.
9. Sita was frightened and clung to the tree's branch tightly.

The Rescue

1. A boy named Krishan came to rescue Sita and gave her some sweet mangoes.
2. The next morning, both Sita and Krishan reached the nearby village.
3. Krishan gave his flute to Sita and left the place.
4. Sita took the help of a farmer to reach Shahganj.
5. She met her grandfather and came to know about the death of her grandmother.
6. She felt sad for her grandfather in the absence of granny.
7. After the flood subsided, they returned to their island.

A New Life

1. After a few days, they built their hut once again.
2. Sita lived her new life without her doll and grandmother.
3. Sita planted a mango seed in the same spot where the peepul tree had stood.
4. Sita's grandfather made a vegetable garden.
5. To her surprise, Krishan visited Sita and taught her how to play the flute.

Summary in Paragraph

Angry River

Introduction

Rivers are the beautiful creations in nature. They play a vital role in the existence of life on the earth. They look pleasant but sometimes when they are angry and flooded, they cause a great trouble to our life. This novel is about a little girl Sita, who survived in the floods when an angry river swept her away.

Body

Sita lived with her grandparents on an island in a small hut. She lost her mother when she was small. Her father had gone to work in a factory. Being alone on the island, Sita made a rag doll as her companion. They raised goats and hens. They had a melon and a vegetable patch and caught fishes.

One day, Sita's grandmother fell ill. Her grandfather took grandma to the hospital so Sita was left alone on the island. As the monsoon was on, it rained heavily and the island was flooded. Sita packed all the valuable things in a trunk to save them. She took shelter on the peepul tree, the only tree that stood in between the rocks. A crow's presence on the tree brought some cheer to Sita. When the river flooded, the tree got uprooted from the ground and fell into the river. Sita was frightened and clung to the tree's branch tightly.

A boy named Krishan came to rescue Sita and gave her some sweet mangoes. The next morning, both Sita and Krishan reached the nearby village. Krishan gave his flute to Sita and left the place. Sita took the help of a farmer to reach Shahganj. She met her grandfather and came to know about the death of her grandmother. She felt sad for her grandfather in the absence of granny. After the flood subsided, they returned to their island.

After a few days, they built their hut once again. Sita lived her new life without her doll and grandmother. Sita planted a mango seed in the same spot where the peepul tree had stood. Sita's grandfather made a vegetable garden. To her surprise, Krishan visited Sita and taught her how to play the flute.

Conclusion

The story in this novel is a heart touching one. It depicts about Sita's courage in overcoming the difficulties of life. The story inspired me and boosted my confidence to face any challenge bravely.

Note: Parents who wish to condense the summary further can do so.