summarize it!

Reading Comprehension
Task Cards

Directions

1. Shuffle the reading task cards and place them in a pile face down on a flat surface.

2. Child draws a reading task card from the pile and reads the passage aloud to his/her parent.

3. Parent asks child to summarize the passage in 12 words or less. Parent listens to child as they orally summarize the passage.

Definition

A summary is a short statement about the the main events in a story.

People who wanted to travel from the east to settle in the west in the mid 1800s traveled on the Oregon Trail in wagon trains. The trail started in Iowa and Missouri and stretched about 2,000 miles (3,220 km) to Oregon. Over 50,000 settlers made this long and dangerous journey. Not everyone who started the journey made it to Oregon. Many died from illness, accidents, and bad weather.

"As it is now time for my son, the prince, to marry, we shall hold a great contest to find the strongest and bravest princess in all the kingdom," announced the king. Prince Harold sighed. He didn't care who won the contest. He didn't want to get married. He wanted to train unicorns.

Marsupials are a type of mammal. Female marsupials have a pocket that they use for carrying and protecting their babies. Most marsupials, such as kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, and koalas live in Australia. The only marsupial native to North America is the opossum.

I know you are super busy, but can you please help me with the math homework today? You are so good at math, and I am really having trouble. Plus, if you help me today, I will help you with your book report next week. Also, my mom made these totally yummy cookies today and we can have some while we are working.

In 1803, the United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France. The Louisiana Territory stretched from the Mississippi River all the way to the Rocky Mountains. This purchase more than doubled the size of the United States. Over the next ninety years, thirteen new states would be carved from this land.

Giant river otters live in South America. Families of giant river otters live in dens that they dig into the banks of rivers and lakes. Mother river otters give birth to their babies in their dens. Baby river otters are called cubs. Cubs are born blind and helpless. They do not leave the den until they are about two months old.

The tallest tree in the world is a giant redwood located in Humboldt Redwoods State Park in Northern California. This tree is 380 feet (116m) tall. That's more than twice as tall as the Statue of Liberty! Only a few people know exactly where this tree is. The people who discovered it have kept it a secret so that people will not damage it.

After traveling for more than eight months through space, Curiosity, the NASA land rover, landed on the planet Mars, on August 5, 2012. Curiosity has six wheels and seventeen cameras, as well as other research equipment. Its mission is to explore the planet and send the information it gathers back to Earth.

Jake and Tim sat quietly next to each other, each thinking his own thoughts. Suddenly, the pole Jake was holding loosely in his hands jerked so hard, he nearly dropped it. "You got one!" exclaimed Tim excitedly. "Reel him in slowly."

Callie picked herself off the pavement and checked herself over for injuries. No blood and nothing seemed to be broken. Good thing she was wearing her pads and helmet. She walked over to the skateboard that was lying upside down a few feet away, popped it right side-up with her foot, and rode away.

Mom made sandwiches and put them into the basket, along with some fruit and chips. Dad grabbed the big, checkered blanket and Robby got the Frisbee. Then the whole family piled into the car and headed out.

Edward was running as fast as he could. He could hear Jacob's footsteps close behind him. He tried to run faster, but it was no use. Within seconds, Jacob was by his side, and then ahead of him. A moment later both boys collapsed under the old oak tree in front of the school.