

Orally Summarizing

Contributed by Katie Leite

Levels	High Beginning +
Aims	Help students identify main ideas from a text and productively use target vocabulary
Class Time	10–15 minutes
Preparation Time	10 minutes
Resources	Any story or chapter from a book that has pictures (children’s picture books and graded readers work well) Photocopier



After students finish reading a story, they should be able to summarize the main events to demonstrate comprehension. In this activity, visual cues and a discussion phase provide scaffolding for students, enabling them to create richer summaries that incorporate more target vocabulary and exclude unimportant details.

PROCEDURE

1. Photocopy six to eight pictures from the story that represent the main events.
2. Arrange the pictures in chronological order and under each picture write two to three target vocabulary words. If large enough, the pictures can be put on a poster board and displayed at the front of the room; for smaller pictures, put them on a handout for each group of students.
3. Put students in pairs and give half of the class pairs (*A* groups) the first three to four pictures, and the other half of the class pairs (*B* groups), the second three to four pictures. Tell students to discuss what is occurring in the pictures and try to use the vocabulary words in their discussion.
4. Reshuffle the students into new pairs made up of one *A* student and one *B* student. The *A* student should orally summarize the first half of the story, and the *B* student should listen and write down each vocabulary word as he or she hears it being used during the summary. The students should switch roles for the second half of the story, and the *B* student should orally summarize, while the *A* student listens and writes.