

Writing Your Summary

You are going to write a 5 paragraph summary. Below are the guidelines for each paragraph. I also included a summary for a made up book. Yours should have more detail but this gives a rough idea of how to move forward.

Paragraph 1: Introduction--Tell your reader the name of the book and author. Give a little hint of things to come and/or the theme of the story.

Example:

For this fantasy book project I chose the book The Whistling Tree by Johnny Thompson. This book revolves around a young boy who is pulled into an adventure to solve the mystery of the whistling tree. There is a lot of action and suspense. He has to use his brains and knowledge to save his own life more than once!

**Note--I did not introduce any characters by name or give the setting

Paragraph 2: The beginning of your book--This is where you'll share the setting, character descriptions and the problem/conflict in your book.

Example:

The beginning of the book introduces several main characters. There are a group of kids: Salli, Jan and Herbert. The book takes place in Madison, North Dakota and centers around a book that was written about the mysterious whistling tree. A thief keeps stealing the only copy being kept in a museum. When Salli and Jan go to the museum they find themselves sucked into the story by Herbert, one of the characters in it. He wants them to solve the mystery and tell everyone the truth, but first they have to survive the danger inside and get back the real world!

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Paragraph 3: The middle--This is where the action took place. What was the conflict? What happened during the most suspenseful or emotional times? This may not be the exact "middle" of the book--in fact it's often found in the last third of the book.

Example:

As Jan and Salli get to know Herbert they learn that although people think he cut the tree down many years ago, it was really the evil teacher, Fredrico. Herbert drowned in the river the same night it was cut down and has haunted the spot ever since, trying to tell people the truth. In the book, Fredrico, who was written to be the hero of the story, is trying to destroy Jan and Salli so that they can't get back to the real world. They have to trust Herbert as he leads them into more danger, promising that he will get them back safely.

Paragraph 4: The end--How did it all wrap up? What questions are answered? What's left unanswered?

Example:

In the end, Fredrico does get Jan and Salli back to the real world and they are able to tell everyone the truth. Herbert becomes a hero and no longer haunts the site of The Whistling Tree. He does come back once a year to visit with his new friends, Jan and Salli.

Paragraph 5: Conclusion--What do you think, overall, of this book? Would you recommend it to others? Would you change anything?

Example:

I really enjoyed The Whistling Tree. It kept me on the edge of my seat and I enjoyed the many, different characters. I was happy that the main characters got a solution they worked hard for, but wish that I knew more about what happened to Fredrico to make him become such a bad person. The author's writing was always interesting though, and I look forward to reading more of her books. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a good adventure story!