

## Summarizing

- **Summarizing** means telling just the main ideas of an article or the plot of a story. A good summary is brief. It does not include unnecessary details, repeated words or thoughts, or unimportant ideas.

**Directions:** Read the following five summaries of the same story.

**A.** Once on a farm, a hen, a cow, and a bee were hungry. The cow gave milk and the bee made honey. The cow was white with brown spots. The hen laid eggs. They all ate custard!

**B.** Once on a farm, a hen, a cow, and a bee were hungry. The cow gave milk, the bee made honey, and the hen laid eggs. They mixed the foods together and had custard to eat!

**C.** Once on a farm, a hen, a cow, and a bee were hungry. The farm was a year old. The cow gave milk, the bee made honey, and the hen laid eggs. They mixed the foods and had custard!

**D.** Once on a farm, a hen, a cow, and a bee were hungry. The cow gave milk and the hen laid eggs. They mixed the foods together and had custard!

**E.** Once on a farm, a hen, a cow, and a bee were hungry. The cow gave milk, the bee made honey, and the hen laid eggs. They mixed the foods together and had custard! It all happened on a farm.

**Directions:** Complete the table. Think about the details in each summary. Explain why each summary is or is not a good summary. Tell which summary is the best.

Summary	Good Summary?
Summary A	1.
Summary B	2.
Summary C	3.
Summary D	4.
Summary E	5.



**Notes for Home:** Your child identified characteristics of a good summary. **Home Activity:** Read a story with your child. Invite your child to summarize the most important details for you. Check that the summary contains only key story events.