



### Student Tasks:

- Read each section of the text carefully.
- Identify the most important idea and summarize it.
- Work with classmates to refine and improve summaries.
- Underline key words in each summary sentence.
- Use the key words to write a final, concise summary.

### Online ThinkCERCA Resources

- Complex texts
- Tools for scaffolding reading (focus mode, translation, picture dictionary, online glossary, audio support, syllabication, part of speech, etc.)

# GIST Summary Writing

Summarizing Key Ideas

*Suggested Time: 20 minutes*

## Strategy

The GIST Summary Writing strategy helps students summarize a text by capturing its most important ideas in a limited number of words. By breaking a reading into smaller sections, students practice identifying essential details, restating them concisely, and forming a complete summary. This strategy builds comprehension and strengthens summarization skills.

## Optimal Application Notes

This strategy works well for nonfiction or literary texts where key ideas need to be identified and condensed. Teachers should model the process with a class discussion before students practice independently.

### Before:

- Select a short text (1–1½ pages) and divide it into four or five sections. Mark stopping points with a wavy line or the word "STOP."
- Introduce the text, activate prior knowledge, and discuss key vocabulary to prepare students for reading.

### During:

- Distribute the text and explain that students will pause at each marked section to summarize its main idea in one sentence.
- Read the first section aloud while students follow along.
- Guide a class discussion to determine the key idea, writing student responses on the board.
- Work together to craft a clear and concise sentence, limiting it to **20 words**.
- Write this as sentence #1 on the board, and have students copy it into their graphic organizers.
- Repeat this process for each section until the text is fully summarized.

### After:

- Review the completed sentences and circle key words in each.
- Discuss how these keywords can be used to create an even more concise summary.
- Have students write a final summary using the underlined words, ensuring it captures the essential meaning of the entire text.

# GIST Summary Writing

## Summarizing a Text in 20 Words or Less

**Instructions:** As you read, stop at the marked points in the text and think about the most important idea in that section. Write one sentence that captures the main idea in 20 words or less. After finishing the whole text, review your sentences, circle key words, and use them to write a final, short summary. This will help you understand the main points of what you've read in a clear and simple way!

Section #	Key Details What is important in this section?	GIST Sentence Summarize in 20 words or less
1		_____ _____ _____ .
2		
3		
4		
5		
<b>Final Summary</b>	Using the key words from your sentences, write one final summary of the whole text.	