

Name: _____ Date: _____

Quick, Tell Me What Happened!

Your friend Angus was absent from school and didn't get to read “Swarms of Terror” in *Storyworks*. Poor Angus! You call him to tell him about it, but he has only one minute before he must take his horrible-tasting medicine. Quick, give him a short summary!

Directions: Follow the prompts below to write a one-paragraph summary. Remember, a summary is a brief retelling of the most important parts of the story, without minor details or your own opinion.

1. Decide what the article is mainly about. Think about:

What do the headline and subhead on pages 4-5 suggest the article is about? _____

What appears in the pictures throughout the article? _____

What main problem does the article tell you about? _____

Use what you wrote to write a topic sentence for your summary:

2. Decide what the most important information in the article is. Go through each section and jot down notes about what you think is necessary to know to explain what you wrote in your topic sentence. Your notes don't have to be complete sentences. We've given you some examples (and crossed out what does not belong).

Opening Section:

~~Laura was settler, saw strange cloud~~

~~people from all over moved to prairie~~

~~pioneer life difficult~~

“Click, Buzz, Whir”

“Millions of Chomping Jaws”

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“Winged Attackers”

“Fog of Rotting Bugs”

“Fading From Memory”

3. Look at your notes. Cross out anything you wrote that is not necessary. Add anything that’s missing.

Ask yourself:

- * Did I include information about what happened? Where and when it happened? Why it was a problem? Who was involved? How it ended?
- * Is there a detail or two describing what the problem was like?
- * Did I write down details that aren’t essential for understanding the main problem? Get rid of those! (See example on page 1.)

Tip! Use your notes to summarize the article out loud with a partner. This will help you decide if you need to add or take out any information.

4. Number your notes above so you can retell them in an order that makes sense.

5. Use your topic sentence and your notes to write your one-paragraph summary on a separate sheet of paper, retelling what happened in your own words. Reread it to make sure it’s clear and that it sums up what’s important in the article. Then you can share your summary with your friend Angus!