11. Summaries

When you come to the end of a topic or you are trying to revise for an exam, summaries are a very useful way of getting information together to see if you understand it well. You can use mindmaps, tables, graphic organisers or lots of other things to put together as much information as you can about a particular subject.

A good way to start a summary is to highlight the key words in a document or topic. You will need to include most of these words in your summary to ensure you have all the important details. Try just reading the highlighted words to see if you get a sense about the subject matter. If you don’t you have missed some of the important words.

Summaries for English

If you are reading a novel in class, have a look online to see if there are summaries to help you keep up and make sense of the text. Some websites also ask questions and analyse characters in the book.

An example using Charlotte’s Web can be found here (other titles available on this site) <https://study.com/academy/lesson/charlottes-web-chapter-13-summary-analysis.html>

And this site has Shakespeare and over 500 books summarised:

<https://www.sparknotes.com/>