Name _____

Summary Gym: Flex Those Words Answer Key

Stage 1 - The General Sweep

Model Summary (General Overview): Coral reefs are colorful ecosystems formed by coral polyps that rely on stable water conditions. Rising ocean temperatures cause coral bleaching, when corals expel the algae that feed them, often leading to death if the heat persists. Scientists link this bleaching to climate change, overfishing, and pollution, but some reefs show signs of recovery. New methods such as coral gardening, where healthy coral fragments are grown and replanted, offer hope. Researchers believe that reducing emissions, protecting coastlines, and restoring habitats can help preserve reefs for the future.

Reflection (Sample Response): I focused on explaining both the causes and possible solutions mentioned in the passage. I made sure to describe what coral bleaching is because that concept is central to the text's message.

Stage 2 - The Tight Edit

Model Summary (Concise Version): Coral reefs, built by tiny coral polyps, are threatened by rising ocean temperatures that cause bleaching and death. Climate change, pollution, and overfishing worsen this problem, though some reefs are recovering. Scientists are testing coral gardening and other restoration efforts to protect these fragile ecosystems.

Reflection (Sample Response): I kept only the key ideas about what coral reefs are, what harms them, and what scientists are doing to help. I cut details like exact processes and background descriptions to make the summary quicker to read.

Stage 3 - The Audience Remix - Audience Example: Middle School Students

Model Summary (Audience-Adapted): Coral reefs are like underwater cities built by tiny animals called coral polyps. When the ocean gets too warm or dirty, the corals lose the colorful algae that feed them and can die - this is called bleaching. Scientists are trying to help by planting new coral pieces, like underwater gardening, and by encouraging people to keep oceans clean and reduce pollution.

Reflection (Sample Response): I used simpler language and added comparisons that younger readers would understand, such as calling reefs "underwater cities." I also replaced scientific phrasing with clearer explanations while keeping the main idea about damage and recovery.