

Name _____

Summary or Retell Answer Key

1. S - It covers the main idea without extra details.
2. R - Too specific, tells a small detail.
3. S - Big idea of the story, concise.
4. R - Includes a small action, not the whole story.
5. R - Just one event, not the overall summary.
6. S - Explains the big idea clearly.

Challenge Question (Sample Answer):

Summaries are important because they help readers focus on the big ideas and understand the story quickly without extra details.

Teacher Notes

- Students often think every sentence they remember belongs in a summary; this exercise helps them separate **major events from small details**.
- Remind them: **Retells are long; summaries are short.**
- A tip: If you can tell the whole story in one or two sentences, it's usually a summary.
- Extension: Have students write a retell of the story in **5+ sentences** and a summary in **1 sentence** to compare the difference.