**Reading Lesson 1: How to Summarize a Text**

***Selection 1:* Reading with Purpose**

**[TIP] *This reading strategy will work with many types of texts! When you take the Reading SOL next year, take these notes as you read the passages.***

**Step one:** as you read, stop after each paragraph and identify and write down the “who?” and the “what?” of each paragraph.

“Who?” = Who is the most important subject of this paragraph?

“What?” = What is the most important thing happening to or with the subject?

**Step two:** after you read the entire text, use all of the “who?” and “what?” boxes to decide what the main idea of the passage is. Pretend that you have a friend sitting next to you and you have to tell her what happens in this passage in one sentence. That is your main idea. Then choose the three most important details that support or explain this main idea.

**Assignment: Complete the chart below. Please refer to the assignment sheet for what to submit to your teacher.**

**Practice Summarizing a Text** “Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin - Pioneering Chemist”

Step one: identify the “who?” and “what?” for each paragraph.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1** Chemist Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin was born in May 1910 in Cairo, Egypt, where her father held a position with the Egyptian Education Service and her mother studied ancient textiles. Hodgkin shared her parents' passion for the study of ancient cultures. However, her inclination changed to chemistry because of a pair of gifts she received as a teenager. | **Who?**  *Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin*  **What?**  *was first interested in ancient cultures then became interested in chemistry because of a pair of gifts*. |
| **2** The two gifts that Hodgkin received forever changed the course of her life. The first was a home chemical analysis kit. This enabled her to analyze the structure of certain minerals and crystals. The second was a book titled Concerning the Nature of Things, which detailed an innovative technique in chemical analysis known as x-ray crystallography, discovered by Sir William Henry Bragg. Hodgkin immersed herself in studying the science behind x-ray crystallography. | **Who?**    **What?** |
| **3** Hodgkin studied chemistry at both Somerville College and Cambridge University, two of England's most prestigious institutions. She was one of only a few women to pursue advanced degrees in science at the time. At Cambridge, she collaborated with a former colleague of Bragg, John Desmond Bernal. Hodgkin and Bernal became the first scientists to use x-ray crystallography to produce a three-dimensional model of a protein. After graduating, Hodgkin took a teaching position at Oxford College. She carried out her groundbreaking research at Oxford over the next five decades. | **Who?**    **What?** |
| **4** What is this process that fascinated Hodgkin enough to draw her interests away from archaeology? Simply put, it involves taking x-ray pictures of chemical substances. However, the technique is anything but simple, with the analysis of a single compound taking a team of chemists years to complete. | **Who?**    **What?** |
| **5** X-ray photography is common in modern medicine and dentistry. A dentist might use the process to assess the alignment of a patient's teeth. A medical doctor might rely on x-rays to check for a broken bone. In either case, radiation is absorbed by the bones, causing them to become visible in an x-ray photograph. The process is slightly different when it is applied to chemical compounds. | **Who?**    **What?** |
| **6** Chemical compounds can exist in three states: liquid, solid, or gas. For example, the chemical compound H2O can exist as water, steam, or ice. Only the solid, or crystallized, form of a compound can be "seen" using x-ray crystallography. Thus, the first step in x-ray crystallography is to crystallize a given substance. This is a delicate and often difficult task. | **Who?**    **What?** |
| **7** Unlike the bones in a human body, the crystallized structure of a chemical compound does not absorb radiation. Instead, it reflects it, causing the x-rays to bend, or diffract, along its edges. During diffraction, x-rays change direction as they move through a crystal. When photographed, the x-rays produce a picture of the inner structure of the crystal. This technique can be loosely compared to pouring plaster into a mold. | **Who?**    **What?** |
| **8** Why is x-ray crystallography important? This method of chemical analysis allows scientists to determine the structure and function of chemical compounds. It can tell them how a chemical will affect an organism, such as a plant or a human body. It can also help them duplicate chemicals to produce synthetic supplies of important drugs. This example is best illustrated by Hodgkin's work with penicillin. | **Who?**    **What?** |
| **9** Penicillin was discovered in the 1920s by British scientist Alexander Fleming. Fleming found that the antibiotic prevented the growth of harmful bacteria and could therefore be used to treat infections in humans and animals. Penicillin came into high demand during World War II, when it was used to treat injured soldiers. Thus, the great scientific challenge of the decade became finding a way to quickly produce large amounts of this life-saving drug. | **Who?**    **What?** |
| **10** In 1942, American scientists successfully crystallized a sample of penicillin, which they sent to Oxford for Hodgkin to analyze. Hodgkin assembled a team of chemists to assist in the project, and after three years they successfully determined its structure. This project became Hodgkin's crowning achievement, as it enabled scientists to mass-produce synthetic penicillin. Since then, the drug has been used to treat infectious diseases around the globe. | **Who?**    **What?** |
| **11** Hodgkin went on to analyze several other important chemical compounds after her work on penicillin, including vitamin B12 and insulin. For her many contributions to science, Hodgkin was awarded the 1964 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Hodgkin continued to lead a career marked by great accomplishments, including her 1969 analysis of insulin, a hormone used to treat some forms of diabetes. | **Who?**    **What?** |
| **12** Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin earned a place in history by using x-ray crystallography to understand the makeup of chemicals used to treat a variety of life-threatening diseases. Her achievements are particularly noteworthy in their historical context. Because she worked at a time when women's role in science was limited, Hodgkin helped pave the way for women to reach the highest levels of accomplishment in scientific research. | **Who?**    **What?** |

Step two: use the information from each “who?” and “what?” box to identify the main idea of the entire article as well as the three most important supporting details.

Main idea: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting detail #1:­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting detail #2:­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting detail #3:­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Practice Summarizing a Text “The Yarn Spinner”**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1** In the early American West, tall tales were told over a cup of black coffee and a plate of bacon and beans. These oral histories told stories of heroic deeds performed by extraordinary men. Known as yarn spinners, these storytellers captured the spirit of their times in their wild tales, and that spirit was preserved in their stories. One of the most notable of these yarn spinners was African-American mountain man James Beckwourth. | **Who?**        **What?** |
| **2** Beckwourth’s experiences provided the basic elements of his stories. To add interest, he embellished his stories with a heavy sprinkling of exaggerated claims. However, not many men in the 1800s could claim to have been a slave, an explorer, a trapper, and a Crow Nation war chief. Beckwourth’s adventures took him from Florida to California, up the Mississippi River and across the Rocky Mountains. | **Who?**        **What?** |
| **3** James Beckwourth is believed to have been born in 1798, though records are inconclusive. His mother was an enslaved African woman and his father was her Irish-American master. Beckwourth was himself a slave until the 1820s, when his father arranged to free him legally. It was around this time that Beckwourth left the family home in search of adventure. | **Who?**        **What?** |
| **4** As a young man, James Beckwourth was gripped by restlessness. He eventually contracted with the Rocky Mountain Fur Company to trap beaver throughout northern Colorado. Trappers lived solitary lives throughout trapping season. They came to town only to turn in their pelts, collect their pay, and purchase supplies for the next season’s trapping. In an effort to bring these isolated people together, the fur company decided to convene a gathering for the mountain men at Henry’s Fork of the Green River in 1825. The event drew mountain men, trappers, Native Americans, and anyone willing to swap goods and stories with the most rugged men of their time. | **Who?**        **What?** |
| **5** A few years later, Beckwourth experienced a dramatic change. In about 1828, Beckwourth was captured by a party of Crow warriors while on a trapping expedition with another mountain man, Jim Bridger. By Beckwourth’s account, he was mistaken for the long-lost son of a tribal chieftain and adopted into the tribe. Beckwourth spent the next six to eight years with the Crow. He is believed to have gained considerable influence within the tribe, and numerous documents from his contemporaries corroborate his claims and confirm his position of leadership. Within the ranks of the Crow, Beckwourth rose to at least the level of War Chief. The tribe gave new names to its warriors for courageous acts of daring, and Beckwourth collected many Crow names, including Morning Star, Antelope, and Medicine Calf | **Who?**        **What?** |
| **6** In the mid-1830s Beckwourth left the Crow and returned to a more staid, civilized life in Missouri. However, he found city life tedious. When Beckwourth heard of an opportunity to fight in the second Seminole War, he joined a Missouri contingent and headed to Florida. Beckwourth signed on as an express rider and muleteer[1] for a salary of fifty dollars per month. He soon, however, grew bored with the structured routine of the Florida military. As he would do many times in his life, James Beckwourth simply packed up his belongings and moved on to try something else as soon as he became restless and felt the need for a change. | **Who?**        **What?** |
| **7** When the California Gold Rush erupted in 1849, Beckwourth joined the throng of prospectors looking to make a quick fortune. Panning for gold was a laborious process, however, and it did not suit his restless nature. Instead, he discovered a pass and created a trail through the Sierra Nevada Mountains that eased wagon train travel over the last obstacle before reaching California. Beckwourth Trail became the preferred route to northern California, and Beckwourth opened a ranch and trading post to serve the travel-weary settlers. At his ranch, Beckwourth dictated his autobiography to Justice of the Peace Thomas Bonner. *The Life and Adventures of James P. Beckwourth, Mountaineer, Scout, and Pioneer, and Chief of the Crow Nation of Indians* was published in 1856. | **Who?**        **What?** |
| **8** Among early frontiersmen of the American West, the ability to "spin a good yarn" was a skill that was highly valued, much like marksmanship or woodsmanship. While Beckwourth certainly had a tendency to inflate numbers or to occasionally make himself the hero of events that may have actually involved other people, many of the claims made in his autobiography have been verified by later historians. Operating a trading post enabled Beckwourth to spin his wild yarns to an ever-changing audience. Whenever wanderlust overwhelmed Beckwourth, he simply moved to another post, another city, another frontier. In 1866 Beckwourth returned to Colorado to live again with the Crow, where it is reported that he died under mysterious circumstances. Because of prejudice, Beckwourth’ | **Who?**        **What?** |

Step two: use the information from each “who?” and “what?” box to identify the main idea of the entire article as well as the three most important supporting details.

Main idea: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting detail #1:­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting detail #2:­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting detail #3:­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_