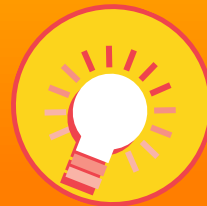


Changeable weather

(Cumulus clouds)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

Changeable weather

(Cumulus clouds)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

Weather around the world

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with your normal subject studies. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our textbook.)

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Changeable Weather

One morning Sam looked up at the sky. It was a wonderful morning. "Just right for a barbecue," he thought. So he ran inside to tell his mother. She popped her head outside and sniffed at the air. "It's very clear and crisp", she said. "So what," snorted Sam, who very much wanted a barbecue.

"Well, OK", said mum, "we will try, but don't be surprised if it does not all work out as planned."



So Sam put up the barbecue on the decking. It was really pretty in the sky, there were even some little white 'cotton-wool' clouds to make it prettier. He got out seats for people to sit on. He looked at the sky again. The little cotton-wool clouds were bigger than they had been when he last looked.

Then he played a game of ball. When he looked at the sky now it was about mid-morning and the cotton wool clouds were now big enough to blot out the sun from time to time. "Hm," thought Sam, "I don't think this is going as planned."



Lunchtime

By midday something strange happened. He got a great wet 'splat' right on the back of his neck. Then he got one on his nose, and then on his forehead. He looked up. The cotton-wool clouds were now dark and the splats were rain!



Afternoon

Sam ran inside and told his mum. "Just what I thought would happen", said mum. "It's just changeable weather. Go and bring in all the chairs and food. We will still have a barbecue, but I will do it inside on the grill." And that didn't seem too bad to Sam after all.



Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'barbecue'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'barbecue' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'barbecue'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'barbecue'.

e Draw a picture of a 'barbecue'.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: wonderful	magnificent

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Summarising

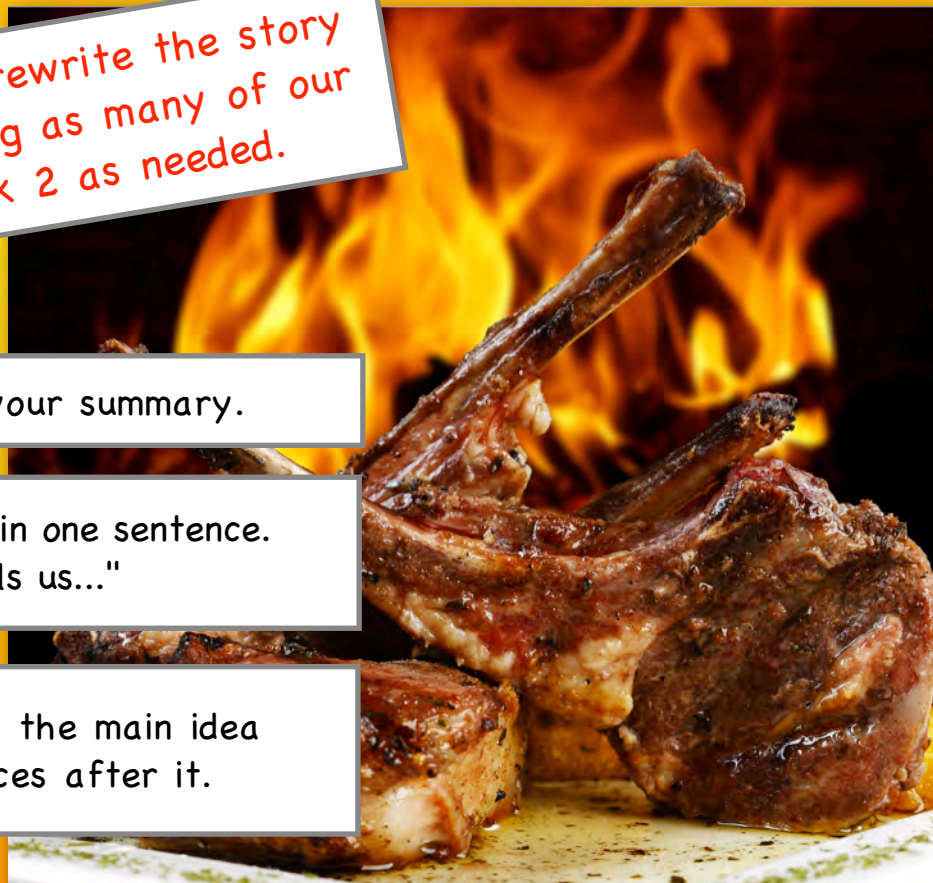
(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.



**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

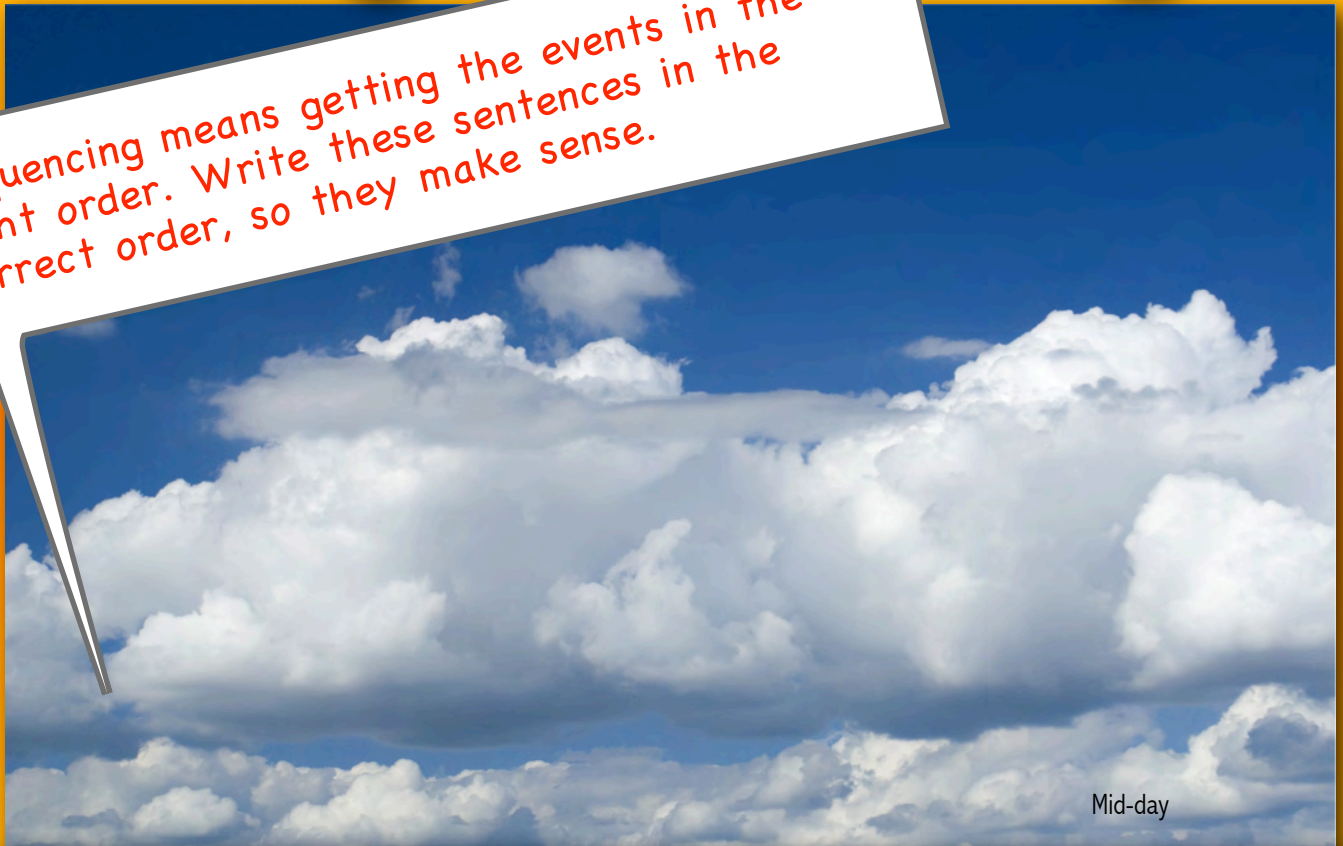
1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.
2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.
3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.
4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?

There is nothing wrong with rewriting; even the best authors rewrite their work.

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Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



One morning Sam looked up at the sky.

By midday something strange happened.

The cotton-wool clouds were now dark and the splats were rain!

So he looked at the sky again.

Sam ran inside and told his mum.

When he looked at the sky now it was about mid-morning and the cotton wool clouds were now big enough to blot out the sun from time to time.



Get to the facts

Early morning

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



1 What was the weather like in the morning?

2 What was the air like when Sam's mum popped her head outside and sniffed the air?

3 How did the clouds look when Sam put up the barbecue?

4 How did the clouds look after Sam had put out the seats and rugs?

5 How did the clouds look at mid-morning?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.

Cloud covers the sky



1 What happened to the clouds during the day?

2 What happened at midday?

3 Where did Sam have his barbecue in the end?

4 Was the weather settled or changeable?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



1 Why did Sam think it was just right for a barbecue?

2 What kind of weather is good for having barbecues?

3 Why did Sam think things were not going as planned?

4 What did the clouds look like when it started to rain?

5 Do you think Sam was happy to have his barbecue inside?



Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



Discussion topic: Changeable weather

What does 'changeable weather' mean? What does settled weather mean?



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



A changeable Spring day

It is a lovely spring day. You and your family decide to have a picnic in the park. You pack up some food and go to the park, but once you get there, the clouds start to grow bigger and turn dark. You realise that it is changeable weather...

(Now write a story describing what happens next. Do you and your friends get wet, or do you find a place to stay dry...)

Changeable weather

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