SUMMARY WRITING

A comprehensive test of reading and writing language skills

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the summary question

- To identify the important information in the text

- To plan your response

- To correctly write your answer

WHAT IS A SUMMARY?

To summarize means to condense a text without losing the important information, so writing a summary involves taking the essential meaning from what you read, but making it shorter.

1. UNDERSTANDING THE QUESTION

- How many questions are being asked?

- How many parts does the question have?

- What is specifically being asked?

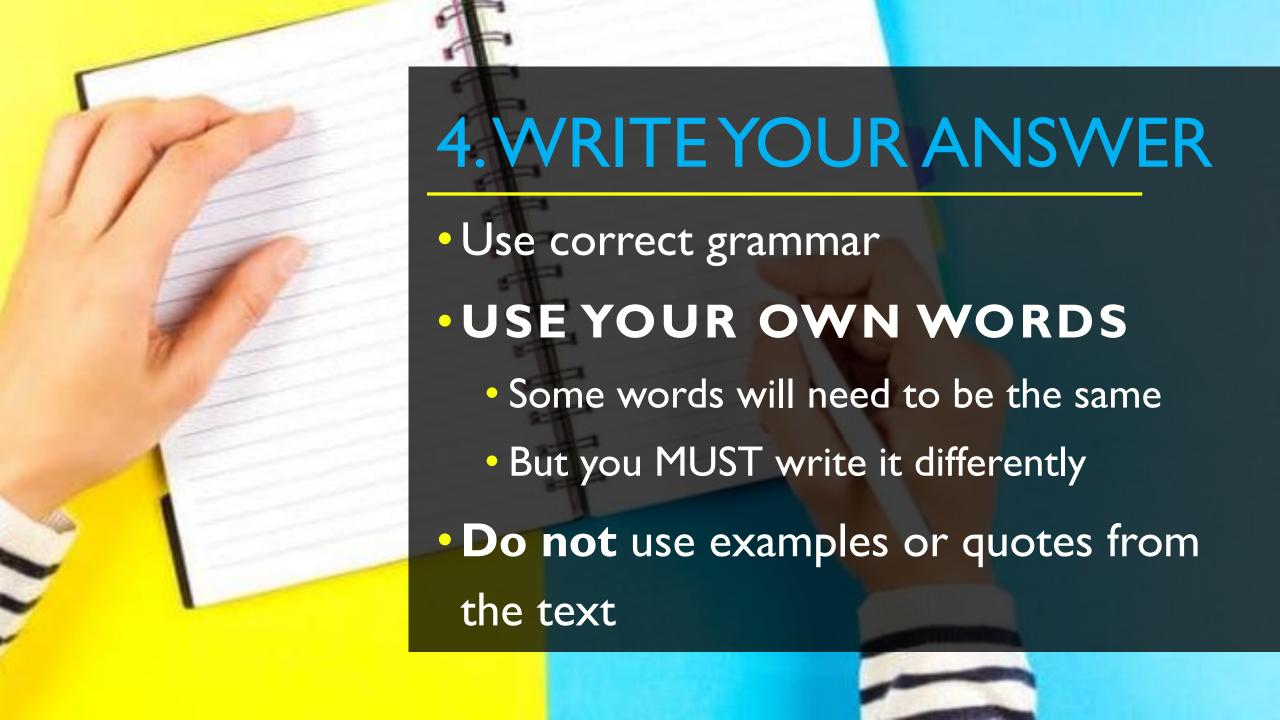- What information do I need to look for?

2. FINDING INFORMATION IN THE PASSAGE

- Do not read quickly

- Take your time and understand

- Find the specific information

- Only the pertinent (relevant) information

- MAKE NOTES

3. PLAN YOUR RESPONSE

- Write down all your notes in classifications
    - At least 2 classifications / main thoughts
    - At least 2 paragraphs
- Only information from the passage
- Never your own thoughts or examples

4. WRITE YOUR ANSWER

- Use correct grammar

- **USE YOUR OWN WORDS**
  - Some words will need to be the same
  - But you MUST write it differently

- **Do not** use examples or quotes from the text

LET'S DO IT!

- Read the question

- Read the text

- Find the information

- Write notes

- Write your answer

WRITE A SUMMARY ABOUT THE APPEARANCE AND BEHAVIOR OF THE KRAKEN AND THE EXPLANATIONS GIVEN FOR WHAT IT WAS.

- What did it look like?
- How did it behave?
- What was it?

The Kraken

In this passage the writer describes a legendary sea creature that was thought to be a danger to sailors and their ships.

Probably no legendary sea monster was as horrifying as the kraken. According to stories this huge creature, with its many tentacles, could reach as high as the top of a sailing ship's main mast. A kraken would attack a ship by wrapping its tentacles around the hull and capsizing it. The crew would drown or be eaten by the monster. Of all the greatest sea monster tales, those concerning the kraken are the best evidence that such a creature was based on something real.

Tales of huge horned sea creatures with many heads and tentacles exist from ancient times. In 1555, Swedish Archbishop, Olaus Magnus, described a sea creature 'about 2 metres long, very black, and with huge eyes…'.

Although the term 'kraken' is first found in print in 1735, stories about this monster date back to twelfth century Norway. These often referred to a creature so big that it was mistaken for an island or series of islands. As late as 1752, the Bishop of Bergen (in Norway) described the kraken as 'incontestably the largest sea monster in the world' with a width of up to two kilometres. The Bishop also noted that it had tentacles like an octopus: 'It seems these are the creature's arms, and, it is said, if they were to take hold of the largest fighting ship, they would pull it down to the bottom.' Despite this, the Bishop said that the greatest dangers the kraken presented to ships were the disturbance it made as it came to the surface and the whirlpool created as it descended below. Because fish were attracted to where the kraken was, Norwegian fishermen would often fish directly above the creature, despite the risk to their ship and their lives.

Recent research suggests that the legendary kraken was a giant squid. A colossal octopus might also fit the description but a squid is thought to be much more aggressive and more likely to come to the surface where it might be seen by the human eye. Although giant squids are considerably less than two kilometres across, some are thought to be large enough to wrestle with a whale. On at least three occasions in the 1930s giant squids reportedly attacked ships.

LET'S DO IT!

- Read the question
- Read the text
- Find the information
- Write notes
- Write your answer

Appearance of the Kraken

1. Huge / can reach the top of a main mast / about 2 metres long / 2 km wide

2. often mistaken for an island / series of islands

3. Many arms/ tentacles (like an octopus)

4. Many heads/horns

5. (Very) black

6. huge eyes.

<u>Behaviour of the Kraken</u>

7. Attacks ships by wrapping its arms round them

8. and then capsizing the ship/pull the ship to the bottom of the sea

9. It would then eat the crew

10. Created great disturbance when it surfaced.

11. and a whirlpool as it descended

Explanations

12. (Most probably) a giant squid

13. Giant squids are thought to be large enough to wrestle a whale

14. Giant squids have been reported to attack ships

15. Giant squids more aggressive than octopuses / octopuses less aggressive than squids

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Paragraph #1

Every time the ancient animal known as the Kraken was seen, it had a different appearance. Some people say that it was only a few meters in length, and others reported that it was two kilometers long! It was definitely bigger than a ship and some say that it was a big as an entire island. It had many arms and legs and many heads attached to its monstrous body. Its incredibly large eyes were always seen as dark and scary.

Paragraph #2

This monster was often reported to be destroying ships out at sea. When a ship was attacked by the Kraken, it was grabbed by the beast's many tentacles, squeezed, and pulled into the water. While destroying the ship, the monster would be reported to eat all the people on the ship as a snack. He was known to make an ominous approach to its prey. On its way to eat a boat and its people, it would cause a dramatic change in the water and the fish near the boat. After the Kraken was finished with his snack, it would go back into the sea causing a huge whirlpool that sucked down anything else in the area.

Paragraph #3

Through all the legends that surround the Kraken, it was probably just an unusually large octopus or squid. Squids are already known for attacking boats, people, and even massive whales when it is unprovoked. Although it could also have been an octopus, squids are much more violent.

SUMMARY

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