Teacher Guide to Online Activity: Summarizing - A Pirate’s Life

Summary:
Students use their summarizing skills to complete three tasks for pirate Jelly Bones Jones. They will:

- Choose the main idea and supporting details and write a summary of the five pirate skills Jelly Bones Jones describes
- Draw a map to summarize where the pirate treasure is buried
- Write a summary of Jelly Bones’ last days to create a short story

To view the standards this activity addresses, visit: http://reading.ecb.org/teacher/standards.html

Teaching Tips:
If students are using iPads, remind them they can use Siri (an iPad feature that will type student input into the text fields).

During this activity, students sometimes find it challenging to:

- Understand the pirate language
  - Tell students to focus on the text clues around the pirate words (i.e. Arr! or Ahoy matey!) to understand what Jelly Bones Jones is saying.
- Complete the activity in one class period
  - Encourage students to click Save before they exit the activity so they can return to it at a later time.

Before you start:

- Review the process of finding the main idea and supporting details in a nonfiction text. Students will need to find main idea and details in this activity.
- Review the concept of using your own words when summarizing. The texts in the activity are written in “pirate language” to induce students to use their own words to summarize.
- Tell students what you would like them to do when they finish the activity (print or email their summaries, print the pirate map, etc.).

After you finish:

- Review students’ summaries. Use the copies for informal assessment, or discuss them with students during one-on-one conference time.
- In small groups, ask students to compare and discuss their work.
  - Why is your summary different than someone else’s?
  - Why did you think __________ was important?
  - Is there anything you could leave out of your summary?
- Think of other ways students can summarize information from text using visual means, such as drawings, charts, graphs, collages, etc.
- Continue to work with students to help them to summarize what they read.

Third graders found this activity challenging when compared to the other Into the Book online activities.
**Screen-by-screen Preview:**

Click **A Pirate’s Life** to begin.

A short video tutorial shows students how to do the activity.

Then click:

- **Try it Yourself** to begin the activity
- **Replay** to play the tutorial again
- **Watch Video** to watch a clip from *Into the Book* that reviews summarizing

Two entry screens set up the story and provide instructions.

There are three tasks:

- How to be a Pirate (main idea and details)
- Burying Treasure (map drawing)
- A Hero for the Ages (summarizing a story)

For task one, read and listen to Jelly Bones explain the pirate skills, then:

- Drag the main idea to the yardarm (top of the sail)
- Drag the supporting details to the sail

Incorrect responses will not stick to the sail. Each passage has three to four supporting details. Next **Pirate Skill** will appear when the main idea and supporting details have been correctly identified. There are 5 pirate skills.

Next, write a summary of each pirate skill. Use the main ideas and details as notes (found in the sail), but write the summary in your own words.

Use **Back** and **Next** to flip through the pages of the pirate handbook to revise summaries. The handbook may be printed now or at the end of the activity.
For the second task, summarize Jelly Bones’ directions to the buried treasure.

There are four sets of directions to reach the treasure. After each set of directions, use the pencil to draw the path on the map. Click Check My Line after each set of directions. If the line is incorrect, click Try Again.

In the third task, read and listen to Jelly Bones tell about his adventure. Then write a summary of his narrative.

There are five passages in this task. After typing a summary of the passage, click Continue to go to the next passage.

When all passages are completed, read the entire summary. Click on any passage to revise it. Click Continue to complete the activity.

Jelly Bones will then cast your summary off in a bottle, and it will be found years later and used to make a movie.

After the activity, click:

- Print Your Summaries
- Email Your Summaries
- Play Summarizing Song
- Go Back to the Student Main Menu
- Go to Monsters to the Rescue, another summarizing activity