

Lesson 12: Chapter 5

2 Class Periods

**Reading Skills: Determining Importance
 Summarizing**

Purpose:

In Chapter 4, the students were gradually weaned from teacher assistance for their section-by-section summary. For Chapter 5, I wanted to assess their ability to summarize short sections independently.

Materials:

A photocopy of Chapter 5, with sections marked, for each student.
Students will need notebook paper and pens or pencils.

Process:

I predicted that my students were not yet skillful enough to summarize a whole chapter or decide for themselves where the text seemed to cluster into groups of related paragraphs. Therefore, I once again gave them a photocopy of Chapter 5 with periodic stopping points marked. (See the notes about section divisions at the end of the lesson plan.) I asked the students to stop reading and summarize each section of the text before they went on to the next section. I allowed one day for this part of the assignment; anything not finished in class was assigned for homework. This part of the task they were able to do fairly well.

The next day, I asked the students to re-write their section-by-section summaries into a chapter summary. I told them that they were welcome to delete some ideas from their section-by-section summaries and not include them in the chapter summaries. I also told them to feel free to rearrange or re-group ideas. I allowed one class period for this activity.

When I read the final summaries for Chapter 5, I realized that the students had simply rewritten their section-by-section summary into one continuous block of text. They did not group similar ideas together unless they happened to appear in consecutive order in their section-by-section summary. They did not use paragraph breaks. They did not combine sentences. They did not delete sentences that were not important in the “big picture” view of the chapter. Based on how poorly they performed, I decided to give them instruction and support for this final step of Chapter 5. Lesson 13 builds on the work done in Lesson 12. It would not need to be taught if your students were able to complete the whole-chapter summary satisfactorily.

Sections – Chapter 5

1. Page 60 “As the Blumenthals approached...” to page 61 “...east toward Germany.”
2. Page 61 “The camp to which...” to page 63 “...take us to Palestine.”
3. Page 61 “In May 1944...” to page 65 “...the slightest effect.”
4. Page 65 “We went on...” to page 66 “...for the moment.”
5. Page 66 “One of the most frightening...” to page 67 “...Auschwitz ovens.”
6. Page 68 “Bergen-Belsen...” to page 68 “...with every breath.”
7. Page 68 “Slowly, starting with...” to page 69 “...latrine dug in the mud.”
8. Page 69 “For the Blumenthals...” to page 70 “...the growing hunger.”
9. Page 70 “By the early months...” to page 71 “...food was survival.”
10. Page 71 “One evening...” to page 72 “...but not our lives.”
11. Page 72 “Medical treatments...” to page 73 “...were not among them.”

Four Perfect Pebbles Ch.5
Summary by Sections

1. The Blumenthals felt uneasy as they boarded the overcrowded train for Celle, Germany in February 1944. They feared that their train had no special status and were worried about being sent back to Germany as prisoners. (36 words)
2. The Blumenthals arrived at Bergen-Belsen where the conditions there were far worse than those at Westerbork. They were still hopeful that they would soon be exchanged for German POW's. (30 words)
3. In May 1944 the names of the exchange Jews were announced. The Blumenthals did not hear their names called. When Walter approached the Nazi officer to politely inquire if a mistake had been made, he was beaten. The Nazi's refusal to honor the Palestine certificate was their greatest disappointment and the end of all their hope. (57 words)
4. The Blumenthals tried their best to survive daily life at Bergen-Belsen. Ruth was lucky to have a job in the kitchen where there was some chance to gather extra food. Once a guard gave an apple to Albert, which he shared with the family. This small gesture of kindness was a "flicker of light in the darkness." (58 words)
5. At Bergen-Belsen, the prisoners were forced to take monthly showers. They had heard rumors of gas chambers that looked like showers at Auschwitz and were afraid that the showers at Bergen-Belsen might be the same. (37 words)
6. Bergen-Belsen had a crematorium to burn the bodies of prisoners who died of starvation, exhaustion, and disease. As the camp became more crowded and death rates increased, the crematorium could not keep up with the bodies. Bodies were sometimes burned in open pits, buried in mass graves, or piled up aboveground. (53 words)
7. After D-Day in June 1944, the Nazis began to lose the war. To hide their crimes from the advancing Allied forces, the Nazis began to move prisoners into Germany. Bergen-Belsen became even more overcrowded. (35 words)
8. The winter of 1944-1945 was especially difficult for the Blumenthals because it was bitterly cold. Also, food was scarce, and there was not enough water for drinking - much less for bathing or washing clothes. Their clothes and hair were infected with lice. (43 words)
9. Rations were far less than the 600 calories-per-day that the inmates had received previously. The death toll continued to increase because of the horrid conditions and lack of food. In addition, typhus, a disease carried by lice, spread throughout the camp. (43 words)

10. In April 1945, Mama and Marion made a fire in their bunk and cooked some soup. When the soup was almost done, they heard guards approaching. As they tried to hide what they were doing, they spilled the soup on Marion's leg, but she did not cry out. (48 words)

11. On 9 April 1945, the Blumenthals were loaded on a train heading east. They had no idea where they were going or why. The soup burn on Marion's leg was infected and oozing pus. On 15 April 1945, six days after the Blumenthals left, the British liberated Bergen-Belsen. (45 words)

Aprox. 500 words