

## Action Skills Sheet

**SKILL: Summarizing**  
**Use with Any Article**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Summarizing a Paragraph

**Summarizing a text means writing down the most important points.**

**Summarizing can help you understand and remember what you read.**

**One way to summarize is to write down the main idea of a text and some details about the main idea. Try it with the two paragraphs below.**

- 1. Polar bears are in trouble. The shrinking of sea ice is the greatest danger to the bears. Polar bears live in the Arctic. They hunt seals and other animals on sea ice. They also travel, mate, and sometimes give birth on the ice. But sea ice is melting as the planet warms, and scientists believe it will continue to do so for several more decades.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Detail 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Detail 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 2. For me, the weekend is one long fight. My parents want me to play baseball or take piano lessons. My teachers expect me to do homework. My friends ask me to go to the movies or the mall. But I work hard in school five days a week, and I'm tired. I like to spend my weekends watching TV, playing video games, or just napping.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Detail 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Detail 2:** \_\_\_\_\_