

Tips for Summer Reading

Students occasionally encounter one small problem when they take the summer reading test: How do I remember details in August from a novel I read in June? To prevent the details from slipping away, students should take notes while they read. Below are some suggestions.

Narrator

Who is telling the story?
How does the narrator view other characters? How do other characters act toward the narrator?

Setting

When does the story take place?
Where does the story take place?
What is significant about the places characters live? Visit? Work?

Characters

Describe each main character. (age, occupation, etc.)
How is the character related or connected to other characters?
What are the main characters' actions?
What motivates each character to make the decisions he/she does?

Plot

What are the significant scenes in the story?
Remember the order in which the most significant events happen.

Theme

What messages or insights about life or human nature are presented?
Why did the author choose to tell this story?