

## Lesson 11

## Summarizing Literary Texts



## Learning Target



Identifying the most important events and details in a story or play helps you summarize and better understand what you read.

- **Read** When you **summarize** a literary text, you briefly retell story details and events in your own words.

A good summary includes only important story details. It tells about the main characters and setting. It also describes the **plot**, or story events, including the **problem** the characters face and its **solution**.

**Read the story below. Think about which details to use to summarize it in two or three sentences.**

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# A Jacket in the Boot

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When we visited my parents' friends in England, their son James and I became fast friends. One afternoon, he and I decided to go to the park. It was cool outside, so James was looking for his jacket. Then he said, "Oh, I think I left it in the boot." I looked at him, puzzled. Why would he leave his jacket in a boot?

James started laughing. Then he told me that, in England, the trunk of a car is a *boot*. We had taken a drive in the countryside earlier. Because it had been warmer then, he had left his jacket in the trunk instead of wearing it.

► **Think** To summarize the story, think about the details that were important to understanding it. Complete the *Story Map* below to identify important story details. Then write the summary.

<b>Plot</b>	<b>Characters</b>	<b>Setting</b>
	An American boy and James, an English boy	
	<b>Problem</b>	
	<b>Events</b>	
<b>Solution</b>		

**Summary:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

► **Talk** Share your Story Map and summary with a partner. Did you agree about which details were important to include in your summaries?



**Academic Talk**

Use these words to talk about the text.

- summarize
- problem
- plot
- solution