

Dear Grandmother,

1 Our family has finally moved to the new settlement. Although it is presently a small town, father says it will expand and develop in due time. Right now, if there is an item we need, we have to make it ourselves or trade for it. My mother says that eventually we will be able to buy things at a store, but currently, there are no stores nearby, so we either make it or do without it.

2 Our journey here was very lengthy and challenging. First, we traveled by wagon and then we traveled by boat. We placed all of our belongings in a gigantic trunk, and it was extremely heavy. The trunk slid right off the boat, but luckily, it was constructed of wood, so it floated. Father was able to get them to circle the boat back around so we could retrieve our trunk.

3 I remember fondly where we used to live. We could purchase all of our goods at the market, and we all had made several friends. But father said we would ultimately have a better life if we moved here. Still, I miss my old friends immensely. I have met some children who live in close proximity to our new home, and I hope that we can become great friends. Right now I am so busy helping my family, though, that I don't have the chance to play with them.

4 When we first arrived here, we didn't have a house, so we built one ourselves. We built our own furniture, too. That kept us all very busy. Although it is not a particularly large house yet, mother says we will expand by building additional rooms soon. Every day there is something to fix or build. Father goes hunting every day, and I help by fishing. Every night we go to sleep tired from the many things we do all day long.

5 My mother recently had a new baby, so I am lending a helping hand with my infant brother. He cries loudly during the evenings, so I hold and rock him. This soothes and comforts my brother, so that he is able to calm back down. When he's content, he smiles really widely at me. You will be so delighted to see him. Mama says he looks like grandpa.

6 The temperature will be warmer before long, which means we will have more food since we can plant. Mother has some of the potatoes you gave us, and she told me we can use them to grow more potatoes. I will be learning a great deal about how to grow potatoes and other crops. I'm going to be a farmer.

Hoping to see you soon, your loving grandson,
Jerome

Summarize Fiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2010.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What is the best summary of paragraph 1?

- a. The family has a new home.
- b. The family has moved to a small settlement.
- c. There are no stores.
- d. The town is growing.

3. What do you include in a summary of a fiction passage?

- a. All the events.
- b. All the people and events.
- c. The important information.
- d. What you liked.

2. What is the best summary of paragraph 2?

- a. The family traveled a long distance.
- b. The family lost their trunk.
- c. The family's journey was difficult.
- d. The family traveled by wagon and boat.

4. What is a good summary of paragraph 4?

- a. They built a new home.
- b. They make everything they need.
- c. They all work hard.
- d. They will move soon.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. Write a short summary of the passage.*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	c	c	c

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

Summaries should include the hardships the family faced as well as the ways in which they have worked to meet their needs.