

Dance With Me!

Shara Overton lies on her bed. She is looking at a ballet book called *The Nutcracker*. A ballet poster hangs on her wall. Shara and her mom live in a homeless shelter in New York City. This is a place where people who don't have homes can stay until they find one.

Shara looks at the clock. She jumps off her bed. There are only ten minutes until ballet class begins! She doesn't want to be late.

When Shara arrives at the dance studio, she's ready for hard work. Her teacher is Diana Byer. Ms. Byer is Artistic Director of the New York Theater Ballet. Ms. Byer also started Project Lift. Project Lift is a dance program for children from homeless shelters.

This afternoon the studio is brightly lit. The students can't wait to run across the shiny wood floor. Ms. Byer holds a stick out. Each child leaps over the stick easily. They have been practicing, so now they are good jumpers.

Ms. Byer is very close to her homeless students. The first day they come to her studio, she hugs each of them. She shows them respect. They also show her respect. If they do not, they're out of the class. Ms. Byer hopes that some of these children someday will become professional dancers.

One goal of Project Lift is to encourage homeless children to stay in school. Shara is an example of the success of the program. Her teacher thinks she'll be a good student in school. She'll also be a good student in dance class.

Shara also appreciates Ms. Byer. "I've been reading a lot more since I came to Diana's classes," she says. "Someday, I want to be just like Diana Byer."

Resource Links

1 RDI Book 1: p. 347

SAM Keyword: Summarize



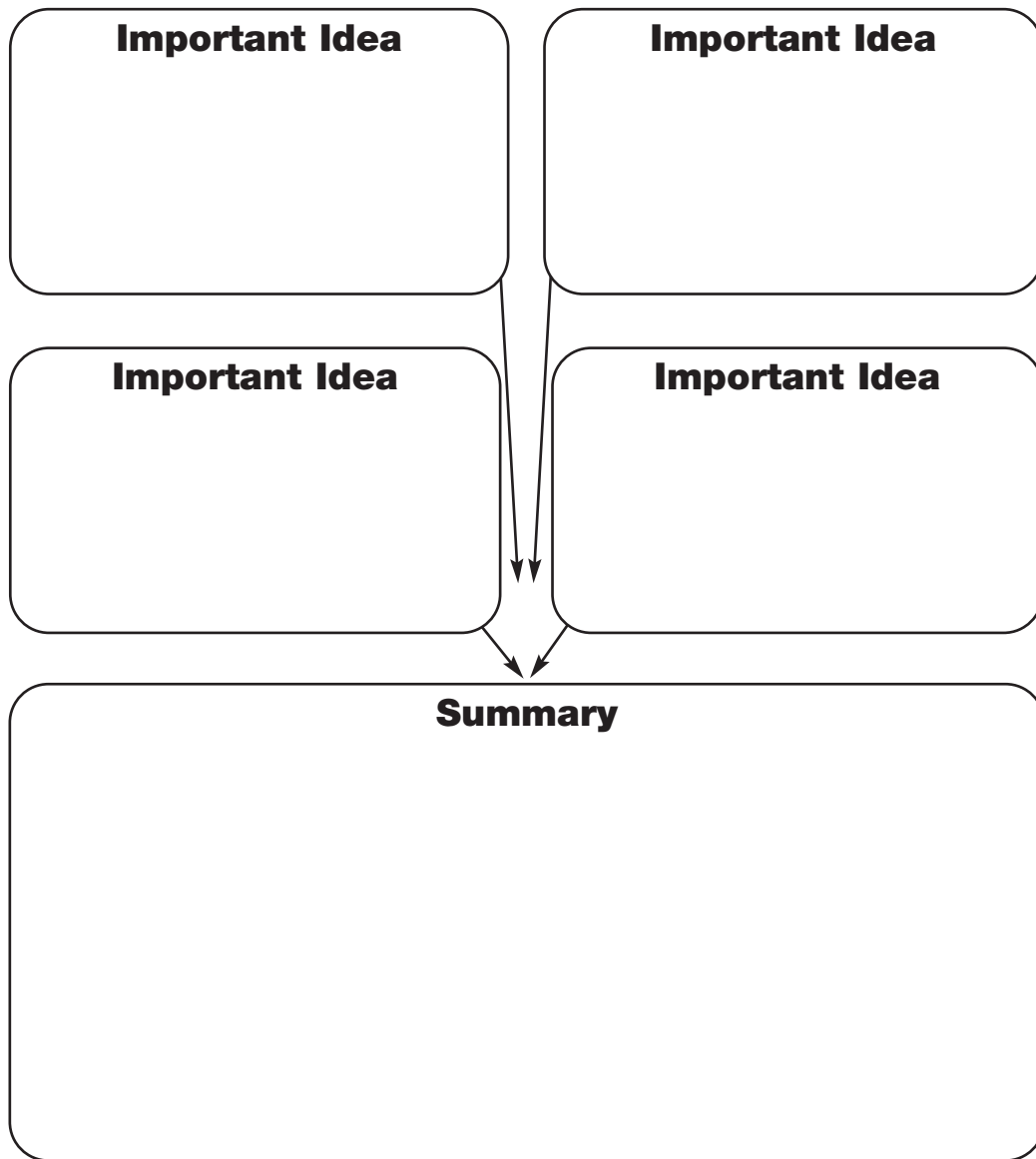
Use with page 294.

Summarize

A **summary** is a short statement that tells the most important ideas or events in your own words.

Use this chart to help you identify important ideas or details. Then put them together into a summary.

Passage: _____



Use with pages 294 and 295.

