Name _____ Date _____

How to Summarize

Short. Important parts only. Your own words. No opinions, no tiny details.

A. Read the story.

The Class Garden

Ms. Lopez's class wanted to grow vegetables for the school lunchroom. They planted tomatoes, beans and lettuce in a small plot behind the gym.

But a family of rabbits kept sneaking in at night and eating the young plants. The class tried a scarecrow, but the rabbits weren't scared.

So the students built a fence out of chicken wire and wood scraps. Then the plants grew tall, and by June the lunchroom served salad made from their own garden.

B. Somebody-Wanted-But-So-Then.

1. Somebody: _____
2. Wanted: _____
3. But: _____
4. So: _____
5. Then: _____

C. Write a summary in 2 or 3 sentences.

D. Read the passage.

Volcanoes form where hot, melted rock called magma pushes up through Earth's crust. When a volcano erupts, lava, ash and gas burst out. Eruptions can destroy towns, but over time, volcanic ash makes soil very rich for farming.

E. Circle the best summary.

1. Volcanoes are really cool and scary.
2. Volcanoes form when magma pushes up. Eruptions can be destructive, but the ash later makes rich soil.
3. Ash is gray.

Answer Key

B. Somebody-Wanted-But-So-Then.

1. **Ms. Lopez's class** 2. **to grow vegetables for the lunchroom** 3. **rabbits kept eating the plants** 4. **they built a fence** 5. **the plants grew and the lunchroom served their salad**

C. Write a summary in 2 or 3 sentences.

Answers will vary, such as "Ms. Lopez's class wanted to grow vegetables for the lunchroom, but rabbits kept eating the plants. So they built a fence, and by June the lunchroom served their salad."

E. Circle the best summary.

2. (1 is an opinion; 3 is a tiny detail.)