

## **“Strawberry Spring” Summary Paragraph Exemplar**

Soon, you will be required to write a **summary paragraph** about your independent novel. The job of a summary paragraph is to condense a lot of information into its most significant elements.

The following is an example of a summary paragraph used to summarize the short story “Strawberry Spring” by Stephen King.

### **Preparation:**

When preparing to write a summary paragraph, first make a list of the most significant events in the longer work.

### **“Strawberry Spring” Significant Events:**

- the narrator describes a series of murders at New Sharon Teachers’ College during a weather phenomenon known as a “Strawberry Spring”
- he explains how a student named John Dancy discovers the body of Gale Cerman, who has been murdered
- the police arrest Cerman’s boyfriend, but while he is in jail, another student named Ann Bray is murdered
- the press name the killer “Springheel Jack” after a 19<sup>th</sup> century murderer, because the killer never leaves footprints
- the narrator studies for a trigonometry exam
- Springheel Jack murders a cafeteria worker named Adelle Parkins and leaves her body in pieces in her car
- the police arrest a student who cannot remember his whereabouts during some of the crimes
- Springheel Jack murders a fourth victim whose name is Marsha Curran
- the narrator leaves campus for spring break, and when he returns to school, the strawberry spring is over and there are no further murders
- eight years later, the narrator is married with a young son, and notices that strawberry spring has returned
- at the end of the story, the narrator suspects that he may have unwittingly been Springheel Jack, and that he has started to kill again

### **Format:**

*When writing a summary paragraph . . .*

- \* Put the **main idea** or theme of the whole story in the topic sentence.
- \* Shorten the length of the summary by **leaving out unnecessary** details.
- \* Write a sentence or two for each major part of the story, including the ending. Write only what happens, not whether you agree with what happened.
- \* Do not leave any spaces in your paragraph. **Indent once** at the beginning only.
- \* Finish your paragraph with a **closing sentence** that reinforces the topic sentence and sums up the most important details.
- \* Check your paragraph for **transition words** to make sure the sentences flow together smoothly.
- \* Check each sentence for proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and formal writing.

### **Example:**

**“Strawberry Spring” by Stephen King is a story about a mysterious murderer. To begin,** the narrator explains that eight years before there had been a series of murders at New Sharon Teachers’ College during a weather phenomenon known as a “strawberry spring”. **First,** he explains how a student named John Dancey discovers the body of Gale Cerman, who has been murdered. **Then,** the police arrest Cerman’s boyfriend, but while he is in jail, another student named Ann Bray is murdered. The press name the killer “Springheel Jack” after a 19<sup>th</sup> century murderer, because the killer never leaves footprints. ~~The narrator studies for a trigonometry exam.~~ **Next,** Springheel Jack murders a cafeteria worker named Adelle Parkins and leaves her body in pieces in her car. **Eventually,** the police arrest a student who cannot remember his whereabouts during some of the crimes, **but** Springheel Jack murders a fourth victim whose name is Marsha Curran. **Finally,** the narrator leaves campus for spring break, and when he returns to school, the strawberry spring is over and there are no further murders. Eight years later, the narrator is married with a young son, and notices that strawberry spring has returned. At the end of the story, the narrator suspects that he may have unwittingly been Springheel Jack, and that he has started to kill again. **All of these events demonstrate that “Strawberry Spring” is about a mysterious murder.**