What belongs in a summary?





When we summarize, we don't include every detail in a passage that we have read. Instead, we look for the most important information.

We ask:

- · What's new that I'm learning here?
- · How does this connect to the main idea of the article or book?
- · Do I need to remember all of this to get the point?

Here's a passage about Clemente's first year as a major league player. Read the passage, and after the passage, look at the summary suggestions.



In December 1954, Clemente was back in Puerto Rico. He had been invited to play winter baseball for Santurce. After playing in Canada, he enjoyed the warm weather. He was also happy to see his family. But when driving in San Juan, his car was hit by a drunk driver. His back was badly hurt. He played with back pain for the rest of his life.

Turn and talk to your partne	er.
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\rightarrow	What's	the	main	point	of	this	passage?	
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Cross out sentences that don't fit with the main point:

He had been invited to play winter baseball for Santurce.

After playing in Canada, he enjoyed the warm weather.

He was also happy to see his family.

He played with back pain for the rest of his life.

Now summarize using the 5 Ws:

WHO is this about?	
WHAT did he/she do?	
WHEN did this happen? _	
WHERE did this happen?	
WHY did this happen?	

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