

# Focus & Instruction

- 8th grade English
- Literary Non-Fiction: Expository- *Letters of a Civil War Nurse*



# Literary Non-Fiction Review

- Main Idea and Summary



# Teacher's Instructions for Journal Notes:

- You will only copy the RED words!!
- Please write neatly and leave space to answer questions.



Focus on selected TEKS (8.10A & 8.10 Fig.19E)

# Essential Question

- How do you determine importance of information when summarizing?



## Focus on selected TEKS (8.10A & 8.10 Fig.19E)

# What is Main Idea?

- The purpose of the paragraph or text
- All information in the paragraph should connect to the main idea
- Some information is not as important
- Good readers identify key ideas



## Focus on selected TEKS (8.10A & 8.10 Fig.19E)

# How do you identify Main Idea?

- Read the whole text.
- Ask, “What is the author doing here?”
- Pay extra attention to the first and last sentence.



## Discuss

### Making Towers Bird-Friendly

The lights on tall communication towers warn pilots to avoid the towers when flying at night. Unfortunately, the steady red lights often used on towers have the opposite effect on birds: the bright beams attract and confuse them. Instead of avoiding the lights, the birds fly directly toward them, crashing into the towers or becoming entangled in power lines. Millions of birds have died this way. However, there is a solution. Unlike steady lights, flashing or blinking lights don't attract birds. In response to demands from conservation groups, the Federal Aviation Administration in 2016 began requiring communication towers in the U.S. to use blinking lights instead of steady ones.

**What is the main idea of the paragraph?**



# Understanding Main Idea

- You must comprehend the text.
- Focus on the **BIGGEST** idea.

**This paragraph is about towers and birds.**

**Steady red lights  
confuse birds**

**Blinking red lights  
do not attract birds**

**To save birds, communication  
towers use blinking lights**

## Focus on selected TEKS (8.10A & 8.10 Fig. 19E)

# What is summary?

- to present the substance or general idea in brief form
- to create a clear, concise, and complete condensed account of the original; to cover the main points



## Discuss

# Why is summarizing important?



## Focus on selected TEKS (8.10A & 8.10 Fig.19E)

“Summarizing teaches students how to discern the most important ideas in a text, how to ignore irrelevant information, and how to integrate the central ideas in a meaningful way. Teaching students to summarize improves their memory for what is read. Summarization strategies can be used in almost every content area.”



Focus on selected TEKS (8.10A & 8.10 Fig.19E)

# How do I identify the topic of a summary?

- Look at the title.
- Look at the first and last paragraph.
- Ask yourself: “What is discussed through the whole section?”
- Look at captions, pictures, words in bold, and headings for clues to the topic.
  - What do they all have in common?



## Focus on selected TEKS (8.10A & 8.10 Fig.19E)

### How to Identify All Details/Major Events.

Authors often plant important ideas in:

- \* Details that reflect the title
- \* Details at the beginning of text
- \* Details at the end
- \* Surprises or revelations
- \* Repetitions
- \* Lots of attention given to a detail
- \* Subheads and italicized text
- \* Changes in character, tone, mood, setting, plot
- \* A question near the beginning or end



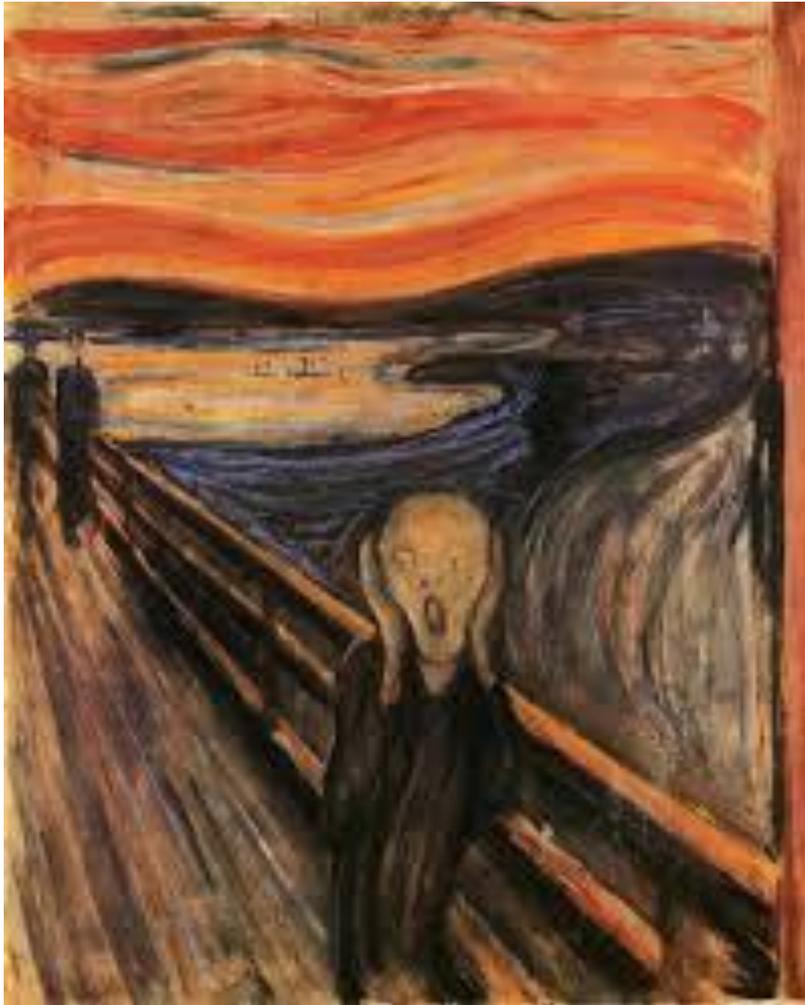
Focus on selected TEKS (8.10A & 8.10 Fig.19E)

# How to evaluate your summary

- If you have not read the text yourself, would you be able to understand what it was about from the summary? Why or why not?
- Is there anything important that should be added? What is it?
- Is there anything unimportant that should be left out of the summary? What is it?



## Discuss



*The Scream, 1893 by Edvard Munch*

- What details need to go into a summary of this painting?
- What details can be left out?



# Discuss



*Men sleep on beams, 30 Rockefeller Center, 1932*

- What is going on in this photograph?
- What information needs to be included in a summary?



## Discuss



Summarize  
what this  
painting is  
about.

*A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* by Georges Seurat



# Practice

Ninjas used many different tools and weapons to get the job done: throwing stars, bows, acid spurting tubes to name a few, but the favorite weapon of most ninjas was probably the katana. The katana is a long, curved sword with a single blade and a long grip to accommodate two hands. This sword was often carried in a sheath or scabbard on the ninja's back. Though the sword was primarily used for fighting and killing, the scabbard served a number of purposes too. The ninja could remove the sword, angle the scabbard against a wall, and use it to climb to a higher place. Or, while stealthy negotiating their way through a dark place (such as an enemy's residence at night), ninjas may have used the scabbard as a walking stick, feeling or probing their way around objects so as not to knock into anything and alert the enemy. Perhaps the ninja's most sinister use of the scabbard was to put a mixture of red pepper, dirt, and iron shavings at the top of the scabbard, so that when the ninja drew his sword, his opponent would be blinded. I wonder what a ninja could have done with a Swiss Army knife.

**What is the best summary of the excerpt?**



# Practice

A human skeleton is made up of many bones—206, to be exact! Bones give your body structure, let you move in different ways, and protect your internal organs. Bones grow and change during your lifetime just like the other parts of your body. When you are a baby some of your bones are made of a flexible material called cartilage. But as you grow and eat foods containing calcium like milk and cheese, the cartilage grows too and is eventually replaced by bone. It takes 25 years for your bones to get as big as they are going to be.

**What is the best summary of the selection?**



## Build Background (The Civil War)

# The Civil War

- The American Civil War, 1861–1865, resulted from long-standing sectional differences and questions not fully resolved when the United States Constitution was ratified in 1789, primarily the issue of slavery and states rights.
- With the defeat of the Southern Confederacy and the subsequent passage of the XIII, XIV, and XV amendments to the Constitution, the Civil War's lasting effects include abolishing the institution of slavery in America and firmly redefining the United States as a single, indivisible nation rather than a loosely bound collection of independent states.



# Build Background (The Civil War)



# Civil War Infographic

## The American Civil War

From Build-Up to Resolution

The American Civil War (1861-1865), often referred to as The War Between the States, was fought over the ending of the Confederate States. Eleven southern slave states declared their secession from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America ("the Confederacy"); the other 23 states supported the federal government ("the Union"). After four years of warfare, mostly within the South, the Confederacy surrendered and slavery was abolished everywhere in the nation.

### THE BUILD UP

- 1800** **Compromise of 1850**: California admitted as free state; Fugitive Slave Act strengthened; Mexican-American War ended.
- 1811** **Fugitive Slave Act**: Required slave catchers to bring back to their masters; those who didn't could be imprisoned.
- 1820** **Missouri Compromise**: Slavery prohibited north of 36°30'N; Missouri admitted as slave state.
- 1830** **Udell's Tom's Cabin**: Popular novel depicting the hardships of slaves.
- 1835** **Wilmot Proviso**: Proposed to ban slavery in territories; passed in House but not in Senate.
- 1840** **Free Soil Party**: First political party to oppose slavery in territories.
- 1845** **Annexation of Texas**: Texas admitted as slave state.
- 1846** **Mexican-American War**: Resulted in the acquisition of California and New Mexico.
- 1848** **Compromise of 1850**: California free state; Fugitive Slave Act strengthened.
- 1850** **Kansas-Nebraska Act**: Allowed popular sovereignty in new territories.
- 1852** **Dred Scott vs. Sandford**: Supreme Court ruled that African Americans were not citizens.
- 1854** **Lincoln-Douglas Debates**: Lincoln vs. Douglas on slavery in territories.
- 1856** **Electoral College**: Lincoln elected President.
- 1857** **Dr. James C. Smith**: First to use ether as an anesthetic.
- 1858** **Leavesville Constitution**: First written constitution for a state.
- 1859** **John Brown's Raid**: Attempted to start a slave rebellion.
- 1860** **Secession of South Carolina**: First state to secede from the Union.

### THE WAR

THE STATE OF THE (DIS)UNION: 1861-1865

- Union State** (Blue)
- Confederate State** (Red)
- Border State** (Grey)
- Union Territory** (Light Blue)
- Mean Ocean Line** (Red dashed line)

#### SOLDIERS IN 1861 V. 2012

A soldier from the mid-19th century fought in the Civil War, 2 million for the Union and 1 million for the Confederacy. One million from today are not that different from those who fought in the Civil War 150 years ago.

Average Civil War Soldier	Average Modern Soldier
5'8" Avg. Height	5'10" Avg. Height
18-29 Age Range	22-30 Age Range
145 lbs. Avg. Weight	155 lbs. Avg. Weight
80% Never Married	93% Graduated High School

#### IMPORTANT FIGURES

- Abraham Lincoln**: 16th President, led the Union to victory.
- Jefferson Davis**: President of the Confederacy.
- Ulysses S. Grant**: Union General, won the war.
- William T. Sherman**: Union General, known for the March to the Sea.
- Robert E. Lee**: Confederate General, lost the war.
- Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson**: Confederate General, died at the Battle of Gettysburg.

#### THE AFTERMATH

AMERICAN CASUALTIES BY WAR

War	Casualties
Revolutionary War	~100,000
War of 1812	~20,000
Civil War	6,277,246
World War I	~1,000,000
World War II	~400,000
Korean War	~50,000
Vietnam War	~58,000
Iraq War	~7,000

625,000 = 6,277,246  
OR  
Population of Tennessee

#### CAUSES OF UNION DEATHS

18% of Union deaths were caused by disease during the Civil War.

#### RECONSTRUCTION

Putting the Country Back Together

Reconstruction began during the war (and continued to 1877) in an effort to solve the issues caused by secession, specifically the legal status of the 11 seceding states, the Confederate leadership, and the freedmen. Northern leaders during the war agreed that victory would require more than the end of fighting; it had to encompass the two war goals: success had to be reestablished and all forms of slavery had to be eliminated. Lincoln and the Radical Republicans disagreed sharply on the criteria for these goals. They also disagreed on the degree of federal control that should be imposed on the South, and the process by which Southern states should be reintegrated into the Union. These disputes became central to the political debates after the Confederacy collapsed.

#### CIVIL WAR V. MODERN TRAGEDIES

Event	Casualties
Gettysburg	7,000 Dead
Antietam	8,700 Dead

[Click to enlarge info graphic](#)



## Building Background: Cornelia Hancock



- Cornelia Hancock (February 8, 1840 – December 31, 1927) was a celebrated volunteer nurse, serving the injured and infirmed of the Union Army during the American Civil War.
- Hancock's service lasted from July 6, 1863 to May 23, 1865.
- Hancock's chance to serve came when her brother-in-law, a volunteer surgeon, offered to take her to the Gettysburg battlefield in July 1863.
- At only 23, Hancock was too young to be an army nurse. Hancock was the only female nursing volunteer to be rejected.
- Hancock went to Gettysburg anyway
- Hancock responded to an immense need: the Union lacked supplies as well as staff. She had no formal training as a nurse; but after three weeks, she was tending to 80% of the wounded.



## Review STAAR Question Stems

For teacher use.

# STAAR Question Stems

- What is the best summary of the selection? (2015-2018)

# Review Vocabulary

For teacher use.

## Vocabulary

- Agony
- Complimentary
- Hence
- Melancholy
- Myth





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