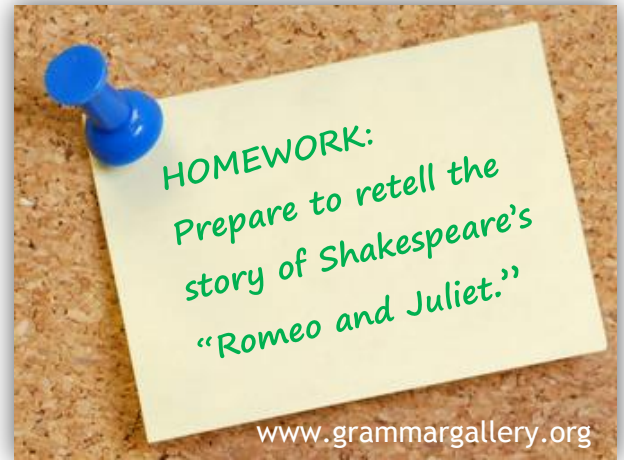


From the time students first begin school, they are asked to retell a familiar story or recount an event. The importance of retelling is reflected in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Beginning in kindergarten, for example, the standards for Reading (Informational Text and Literature; see RI.K.2 and RL.K.2) require students to identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.



Later, of course, the retelling assignments become more complex as students are required to retell the events leading up to a major world event or retell the plot of a novel. To satisfy the requirements of these kinds of assignments, students must provide relevant information that briefly conveys the main points.

When you are ready to review or relay for the first time what teachers are looking for when they ask students to retell, display the following page and discuss the information. Print out a copy and encourage students to refer to this reference.

Coming in September 2014

Summarizing a Plot



Grammar Gallery users ...

[Click here](#) to go to the Reading Gallery and have students practice retelling classic stories such as *The Tortoise and the Hare* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

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Retelling

Your teacher asks you to retell the plot of *Romeo and Juliet* or recount the events leading up to the Great Depression. What your teacher wants you to do is to provide relevant information that briefly conveys the main points.

FICTION

The teacher says:

Retell the plot of *Romeo and Juliet*.



The teacher wants you to convey:

- **Setting:** where and when the story takes place
- **Characters:** who is in the story
- **Plot:** order of events

NONFICTION

The teacher says:

What events led to the Great Depression?



The teacher wants you to convey:

- **Sequence of events:** order in which events occurred
- **People:** the key people involved in the events
- **Setting:** where and when the events took place

Here are some **key terms** to use when you are retelling a story or event:

- in the beginning
- at the start
- first
- second
- third
- next
- then
- after that
- last
- finally