Library Happenings!

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THE WHOLE OF MY WORLD
by Nicole Hayes

An unputdownable novel for anyone who’s ever loved or lost, drawn a line between then and now, or kept a secret that wouldn’t stay hidden . . .

‘Today I am free. No guilt for who’s missing, what’s been left behind. My face aches from smiling in the wind and my voice rasps from all the screaming, and I know that it’s been forever since I’ve felt so completely alive.’

Desperate to escape her grieving father and harbouring her own terrible secret, Shelley disappears into the intoxicating world of Aussie Rules football. Joining a motley crew of footy tragics - and, best of all, making friends with one of the star players - Shelley finds somewhere to belong. Finally she’s winning.

So why don’t her friends get it? Josh, who she’s known all her life, but who she can barely look at anymore because of the memories of that fateful day. Tara, whose cold silences Shelley can’t understand. Everyone thinks there’s something more going on between Shelley and Mick. But there isn’t - is there?

The strategy we are going to try is ABC. It is called ABC, because you don’t want to note everything (the whole alphabet) you just want the summary hint (the ABC).

A) Read the first sentence of the paragraph and stop to think: what do you expect to find out in this paragraph?
B) Now read the whole paragraph, one sentence at a time. Don’t worry about words you don’t understand. Try to ‘guess’ what the word might mean, within the whole sentence.

For example, read this sentence: “At 9am the bell fjdsajfdlasjdksal and everyone went to assembly.”

Obviously, fjdsajfdlasjdksal isn’t really a word, but reading that whole sentence, what do you think ‘fjdsajfdlasjdksal’ means? …………………………………………………

C) At the end of the paragraph, write about 5-10 words to summarise the key point. You can summarise in single key words or in sentences.

E.G:

Julius Caesar was born c.100BC in Rome. His family were noble but poor. We don’t know much about Caesar's early life, except that his father died suddenly when Julius was 16, leaving him as head of the family.

Caesar was an excellent soldier and soon became a General. He was appointed governor of Spain in 61BC, where he successfully crushed rebellions by the Spanish. The Romans were very proud of their army, so Caesar’s military victories made him popular with Roman plebeians. Therefore, the following year, Caesar returned home to pursue a political career.

As part of his election campaign, Caesar spoke to the people about Rome’s problems of high taxes, slave labour, unemployment and corruption in the Senate and promised to solve them. The people loved him and the Senate became afraid that the people would elect Caesar as Consul. Rich senators began campaigning to turn the plebeians against Caesar. However, Caesar made a deal with two important patricians: Pompey and Crassus. Pompey was the most famous Roman General and was adored by the public. Caesar married
his daughter, Julia, to Pompey, to gain Pompey’s support. Crassus was extremely rich and, therefore, very influential. Crassus hated the Senate because it had given credit to Pompey for crushing Spartacus’ slave rebellion, when it had actually been Crassus who led the army. Caesar’s promises to curb the Senate were attractive to Crassus. Although Pompey and Crassus hated each other, they were both prepared to support Caesar in his election campaign. As a result, Caesar was elected Consul in 59BC.

This isn’t the only way of summarising, it’s just my example. You summarise in your own way. Pictures can work just as well as words, if you prefer. The important thing is not to spend ages – do it quickly!