"Car Trouble"
November/December 2007

Name:_____ Date:_____

Important Events

How do you know if you've really understood a story? Try writing a summary of the events. The hardest part of summarizing a story is pinpointing the really important events—the moments that make up the central idea of the story. Sometimes, the funniest bits, the best lines, or even your favorite character are not essential to understanding the story. In this activity, you will consider the events in "Car Trouble" and figure out which ones belong in your summary.

Directions: In the space below, write a list of the events in the short story "Car Trouble" Use a check or a star to identify the big events among the surrounding details.

1. Write a list of the events in "Car Trouble." Use one sentence for each main action.

2. Look over your list and identify the most important actions. Cross off any event that is not needed to tell the story, even if it seems really interesting to you. Next, find the climax of the plot and the resolution.

3. Using your notes from above, write a summary of "Car Trouble" on a separate piece of paper. Underline the climax and the resolution. Remember to make sure that each event you include is important.

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