

## Reading Activity – Magnet Summary\* (Retention\*)

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- Objective** : To enable readers to locate the main idea/concept and the related key words from the text of their reading to build a summary statement and to draw a graphic organiser for retention.
- Participation** : Individual/group
- Material** : <https://techcrunch.com/2019/11/07/elon-musk-says-building-the-first-sustainable-city-on-mars-will-take-1000-starships-and-20-years/> Elon Musk says building the first sustainable city on Mars will take 1,000 Starships and 20 years.
- Preparation** : While reading, the focus is to be on the key ideas/concepts and the key words for a thorough understanding. Index card(s) are required to summarize and to decide on an appropriate graphic organiser among the several formats to present the related ideas.

### **Procedure:**

- While reading any text, the first thing to do is to zero in on the key concept/idea as and when it appears. (A text may contain more than one idea.)
- Based on the key idea and the related points, a crisp summary statement should be written on one side of an index card. It should just be one statement including all the details. As summarizing is a demanding task, one should keep on refining the statement until it is all-inclusive and reads well.
- Once the summary statement is made, it has to be presented in a visual form on the other side of the card. [See the sample given at the end.]
- Supposing the text is brief, the process ends here, but for a lengthy text, the process has to restart. The number of summaries and the graphic organisers will depend on the number of key concepts or ideas contained in a text.
- When there are several summaries, they need to be arranged in the order in which they appeared in the text, lest they should be distorted and fail to serve the purpose.
- The task can be carried out individually or collaboratively in small groups and the nature of the task remains the same. The advantage of doing it in a group is that it creates a space for discussion among them.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Learners understand that they should quickly develop an ability to identify the main concept/idea amidst the verbiage for a clear understanding.
2. Learners realize that they can remember ideas only in their own words and not the exact words employed by the writers. Accumulating ideas is the foundation for enhancing one's intellectual calibre.

**Further Reading:** When a reader engages with a text they have to look for key concepts/ ideas for a detailed understanding and develop ‘magnet’ summaries and, present their summaries in the form of graphic organisers for retention.

\* **Magnet Summary:** The difference between a magnet summary and the usual summary is that the latter condenses the entire text, irrespective of its size, into just one summary, whereas the former depends upon the number of key ideas present in a text. Another difference is that a magnet summary has two faces to it – one side of the index card carries a crisp summary statement and the other a graphic organizer.

The justification given for the phrase “magnet summary” is that just as a magnet attracts metal, magnet words attract information.

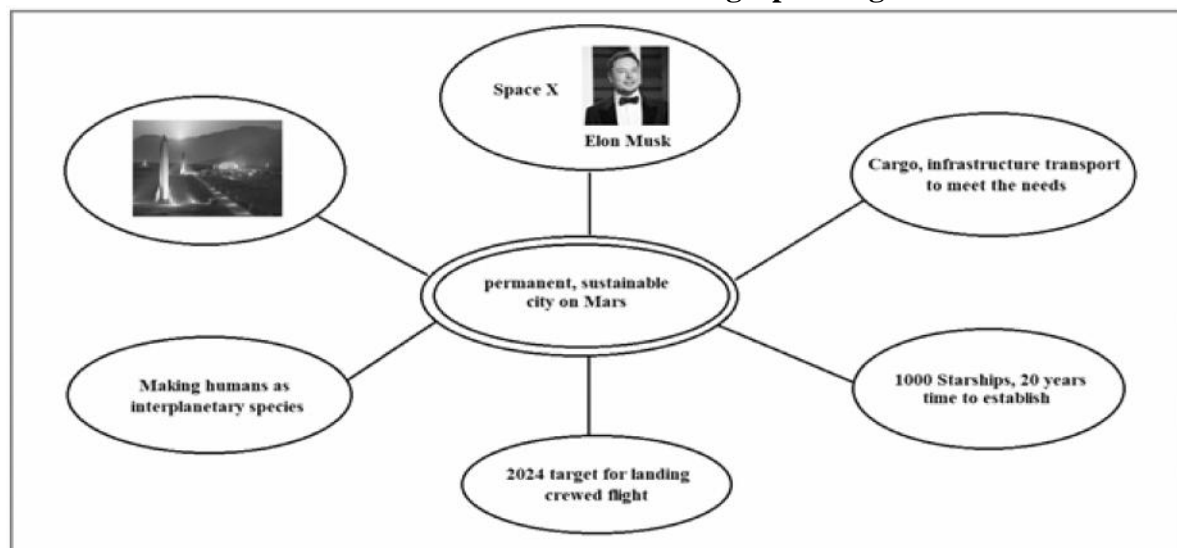
[Source: [https://www.appohigh.org/ourpages/auto/2013/10/22/60593840/Magnet\\_Summaries2.pdf](https://www.appohigh.org/ourpages/auto/2013/10/22/60593840/Magnet_Summaries2.pdf)]

\* **Retention:** More than comprehension, storing ideas in the long-term memory has become a challenge for many. But retention alone can make one cognitively potential and not merely where to find what – this is popularly stated as just a click away – which is promoted as a study skill among students.

### Sample Index Card

Elon Musk, SpaceX CEO’s ambitious plan is to develop a self-sustaining city on Mars for humans to be interplanetary species and with 1000 Starships in 20 years he plans to achieve and set 2024 as target year to land the first crewed flight.

#### The other side of the index card – the graphic organizer



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