

TVGuide.com

Materials/Resources:

TVguide.com is a useful resource to help students understand how to identify and write short summaries that capture the main idea of a storyline.

Website: <http://www.tvguide.com/>

Skills Targeted:

- *Main Idea
- *Detail Identification
- *Summarizing
- *Compare & Contrast
- *Organization of Thoughts
- *Vocabulary
- *Reasoning

Instruction:

1. An introductory activity to this is to have students pick a favorite movie or TV show and have them either write or verbalize a summary of their chosen program/movie. Then review with the students, their summaries. This activity gives the therapist an excellent insight into each student's ability to effectively and concisely summarize a given theme. Student use of detail, elaboration, organization, vocabulary, and the ability to express information in a concise manner is easily measured by this activity.
2. To demonstrate and model the targeted skills noted above, the website, *tvguide.com* is then introduced. When on this particular site, click on the "What's on TV" tab, go to "TV Listings", and then select from there, the "Family Tab". You will see listings of current programming for that day. For any show, click on the title and the episode information will appear. Many of the children's shows have titles for the episode and then a short synopsis of that particular show.
3. Review and discuss with the students, multiple examples of listed programs. Have students compare and contrast the episode title with the synopsis. In addition, have students single out three key details from the synopsis and restate the main idea of the overview.
4. Upon completion of this activity, repeat step 1 and check for improved understanding of concepts and mastery.

Program Example: TV show: *Zeke and Luther* Episode Title: *Tall Stack of Waffles*

Synopsis: Luther learns from a doctor that he's going to be over 7 ft. tall so he gives up skateboarding.