

Summarizing vs. Responding

Summary – a shortened account of important events; hits the highlights in an objective way (no personal opinions)

Reader's Response – a reader reacts to what he/she reads by sharing questions, thoughts, opinions, feelings, predictions, etc.

The Graduation of Jake Moon – Chapter 1 Summary

In Chapter 1, three 8th grade boys notice an old man sitting on a dumpster with his back to them. Two of the boys shout insults to the old man, who doesn't react. Then, the old man seems to hear the boys, stands in the dumpster, and turns to them. He greets them and waves. At this point, the boys realize that there is something wrong with the old man, so the two boys stop making fun of him. At the very end of the chapter, the narrator reveals that the third boy, who is the narrator, should feel most ashamed because the old man is his grandfather.

The Graduation of Jake Moon – Chapter 1 Response

When I read this chapter, I was actually pretty angry with the 8th grade boys. I couldn't understand why they would make fun of the old man instead of seeing if he needed help. The way the author describes how the old man seemed to just be staring down into the dumpster, not listening to what the boys were yelling, makes me wonder if he has some sort of mental issue or dementia. I also wonder why the narrator, who's the old man's grandson, would just stand there and let his two friends insult his grandpa. Yes, I understand that he would be embarrassed, but he could have told the two guys to knock it off and then walked the other way. When I got to the end of the chapter, I thought, Wow, this kid is kind of a jerk.