

Name _____ **Summarizing Text**



When Writers Were Your Age: Shannon Hale

DIRECTIONS: Write a one-sentence summary of each paragraph on the lines.

Shannon Hale, author of the popular Ever After High series, describes herself as a seriously cute kid, until she “got huge, crooked teeth”, her “hair went stringy”, she “got taller, lankier, and bonier”, and she says, “fourth grade was no picnic when I got glasses”. She had three sisters and a brother, and Shannon was the middle kid. She says she and her brothers and sisters fought a lot.

One of her earliest memories is of “playing with play dough on the downstairs carpet and making such a mess” her mom cried. She also remembers when her mother buried a dead bird in a Cool Whip container and she and her sisters dug it back up again to take another look. She remembers riding on her father’s shoulders walking into church, and “having chicken pox the same time as my sister and taking a bath with baking soda in the water to help ease the itching.”

She loved school, but says that she had trouble making friends. There always seemed to be fights and misunderstandings, and when things didn’t go well she believed that no one liked her. She says that she’s always been very sensitive, which is a good thing for a writer, who needs to see things through the eyes of other people. But being sensitive has also made it more difficult to be a writer—for example, she says, when someone writes a bad review of one of her books it really hurts her feelings.

Shannon loved to read. Her personal tradition, on the last day of summer, the day before school started again, was to read all day. She describes getting a book, laying out a blanket in a shady spot, eat crackers and drink Sprite all day, and just read.

She credits some of her elementary school teachers for encouraging her creativity. She used to write silly poems and make up plays, and long before she knew anything about writing books she would act out stories with her brothers and sisters or classmates. She was in the fourth grade when she discovered the “magic of writing fiction”, and she was hooked. That was the year that she declared herself a writer. She started writing four books that year (she didn’t finish any of them), and told everyone she knew that she was going to be a writer when she grew up.
