

Summarizing Interviews with Famous People

Below is a compilation of quotes that famous people have given during various interviews with journalists. You are to choose one person from this list to practice your summarizing skills. First, read their entire quote. Then write a summary of what your famous person had to say. Remember: a good “summarizer” does not alter the meaning of what was said in the original text.

Lindsay Lohan

“I don’t feel like I have any power. I’ve been working hard and trying to get to this position, and I feel like people are starting to recognize the stuff that I’m doing, and enjoying it. It makes me feel really good when my little sister and her friends peek inside my bedroom door and stare at me. [laughs] It’s cool to have people look up to you. But I’m not in a position yet where I can just be like, ‘Oh, I want to do this kind of movie.’”

“I was more of a floater in high school. I made it a point to get along with everyone because if you’re an actress, people assume that you think you’re better than everyone else. I wanted to make sure that people had no reason to think that about me.”

Tobey Maguire

“I like to be very active. I can’t say there is anything that quite compares to swinging around like Spider-Man does. I like to ride bikes and run and scuba dive. I would consider skydiving, but now my fiancé is like ‘You are not sky diving.’ And it would be a shame if something happened and I missed my daughter’s life. That would be a drag.”

Lois Lowry

“I’m so interested, always in how the bits and pieces of our lives go together, how they form a narrative, and how important they are to us. My son died when his little girl was not yet two. She’s twelve now, and she asks me often, ‘Tell me stories about my dad when he was little.’ She giggles at the when-your-dad-was-naughty-stories. But she knows intuitively that the narrative of his life is also a valuable part of her own. I dealt with the importance of our memories in a book called The Giver, and in the personal memoir called Looking Back, as well. But thoughts about memory were haunting me, still, when I sat down to write the book that would be called Gossamer.”

Jennifer Lopez

“I grew up in the inner city, but to me it was safe. It was all I knew. My mother would send me to the store, and I’d go, when I was like eight years old. I only found out about gangs and gunshots when I was in my 20s and dated a cop who worked in my neighborhood. I told him I grew up in Castle Hill, and he said, ‘That’s the worst crime area.’ I knew nothing of it. My parents had three girls and raised us to do the right things – go to school, get good grades, try to get into college. It was about trying to have a better life. We weren’t allowed to hang out on the streets. Parties – God forbid! I’d beg for weeks to go, then have to be home by 11 p.m., when everybody else was just getting there.”

Bow Wow

“I’ve been tied up to this chain where everybody wants me to be this little kid. What people fail to realize is that I can’t be this little kid forever. That’s the leash that everyone wants to keep on me. That’s what they want, but sooner or later I have to be unleashed.”

Johnny Depp

“I was definitely never a crowd pleaser. May not be after this one, you never know. I was very surprised, incredibly surprised, still am that Pirates of the Caribbean did as well as it did and that the character Jack Sparrow made some friends out there. I am still surprised and touched.”