

Theme 2

Lesson 6: Plot and Characters

Multiple-Meaning Words and Context Clues

Many words have more than one meaning. To determine which meaning an author intends, look at context clues, or the words and sentences around the word in question.

Example: The author stared at a blank page, waiting for an idea.

Possible meanings:

“vacant or without expression”

“a space to be filled in on a form”

“free from writing or printing”

The context clues suggest that the author cannot think of anything to write, so the page is empty. The word *blank* as used here means “free from writing or printing.”

1. He knew how to play several musical instruments.

Are you attending the play at Newman Theater?

The children like to play baseball after school.

A kitten will play with a piece of string for hours.

Meanings for **play**: to amuse oneself or have fun; to engage in a game or sport; a story or drama for the stage; to perform or perform on a musical instrument

2. The piano sounded odd because it was not in tune.

I heard a lovely tune on the radio, and I hummed it all afternoon.

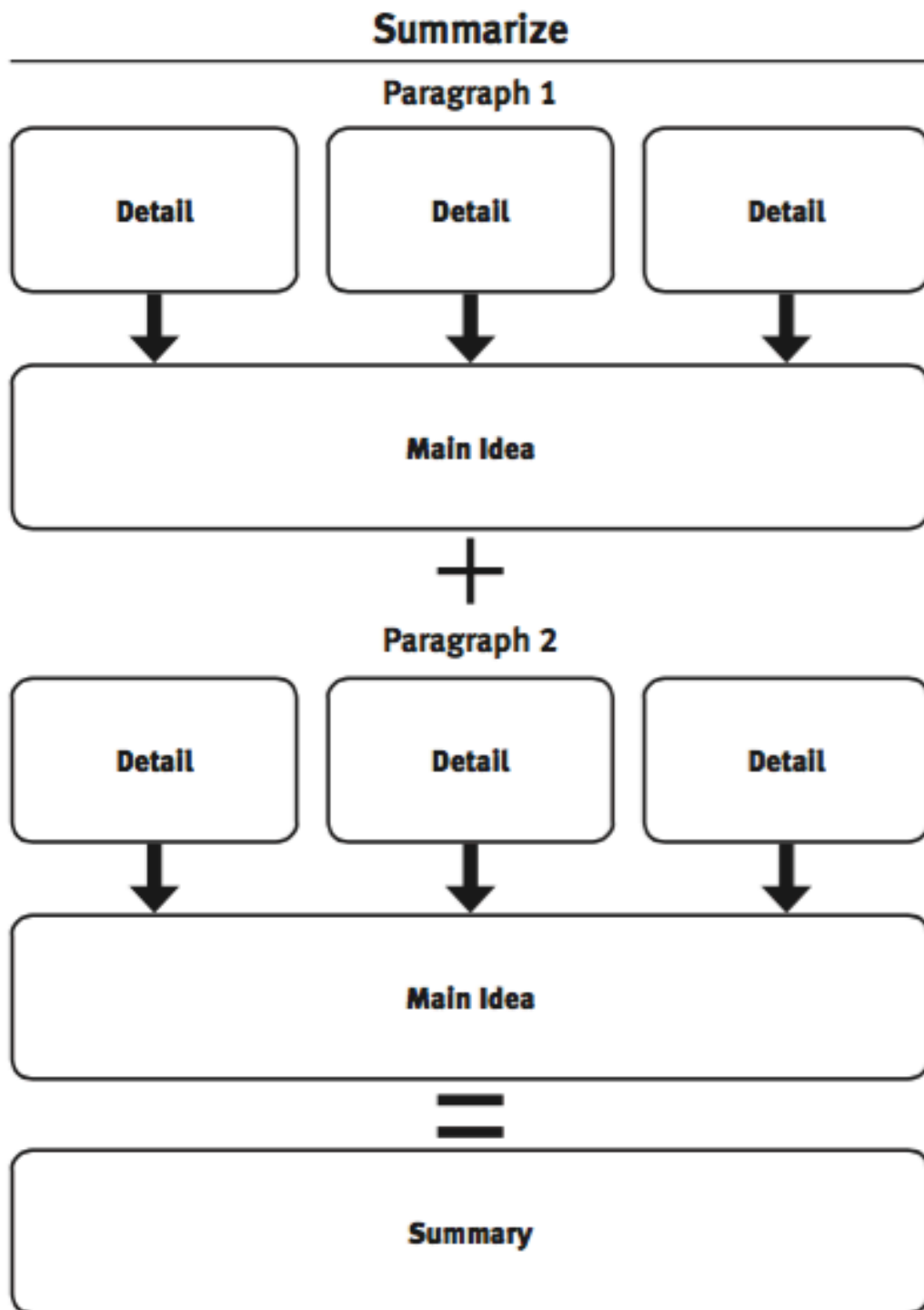
Their moods are not in tune with each other today.

The violinist will need to tune her violin to the piano.

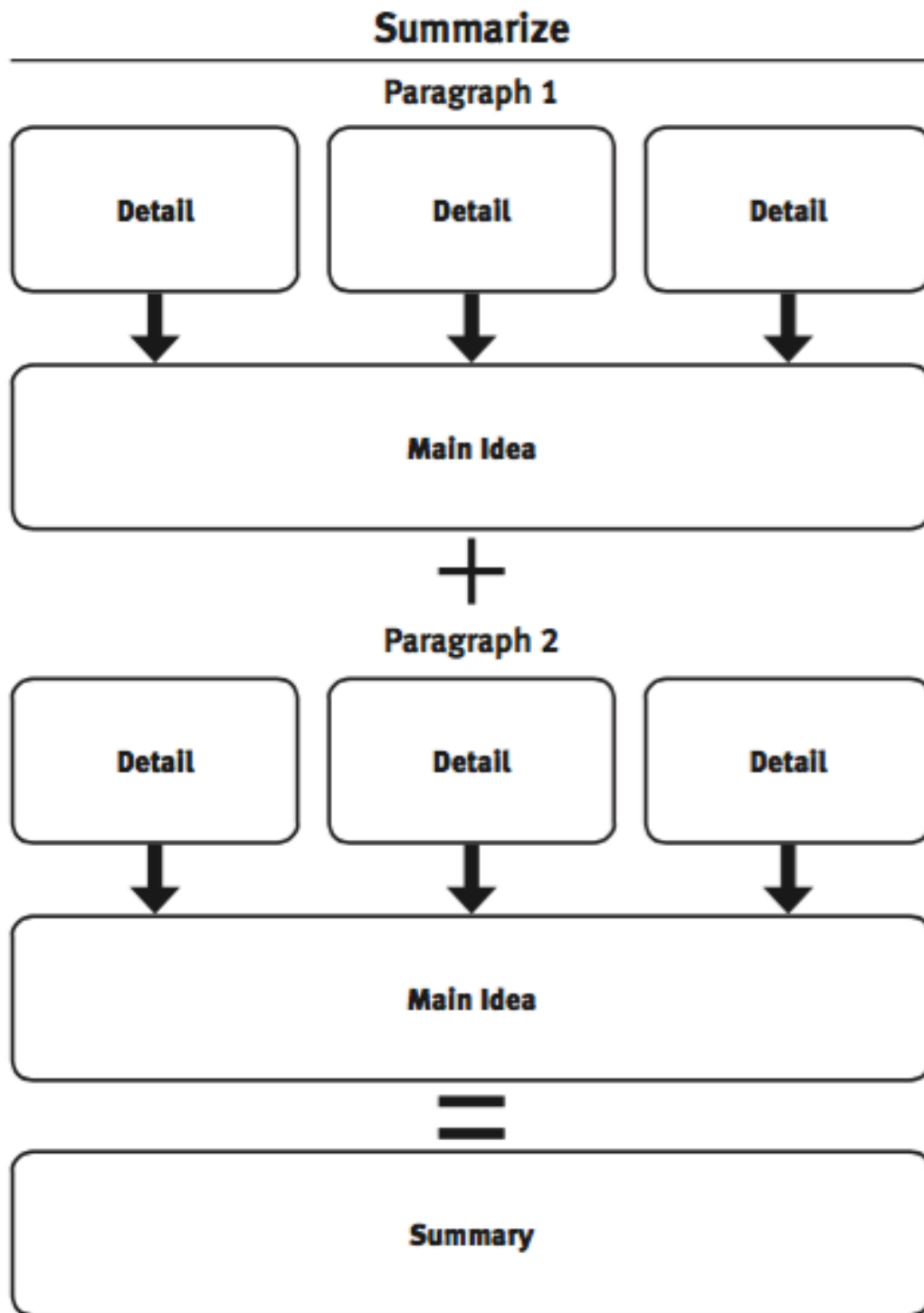
Meanings for **tune**: a melody; to adjust musical pitch of an instrument; condition of being at the correct musical pitch; agreement or accord

Lesson 7: Plot and Characters

Lesson 8: Main Idea and Details



Lesson 9: Main Idea and Details



Text Structure: Cause and Effect

- A **cause** is why something happened; an **effect** is what happened.
- When a cause or effect is **unstated**, you must use the information from the story and your own knowledge to figure out what the missing information might be.
- Certain words or phrases signal cause-and-effect relationships, such as *when*, *in order to*, *because*, *so*, *since*, and *as a result*.

Most forest fires in the United States are caused by people who drop lighted matches. To catch these fires early, foresters in airplanes patrol the sky over wilderness areas. Foresters also work hard to educate people about the value of forests in order to reduce the number of careless fires. When there is a long spell of dry weather and an increased fire danger, foresters may close a wilderness area to the public.

