Paraphrasing: In my own words

Grade 4 Writing Worksheet

1. Read the paragraph. Then, in your own words, share three interesting facts about the ostrich.

The ostrich is the world's tallest and heaviest living bird. It can grow to nine feet (2.7 meters) tall. It was once known as the "camel bird" because its eyes, long neck, eyelashes and even the way it walks bear a strong resemblance to the camel. Similarly to camels, the ostrich can live in high temperatures and go without water for long periods of time. Though these birds cannot fly, they are built to run! Ostriches can run at steady speeds of 31 miles per hour (50 kilometers per hour) and quick bursts of 43 miles per hour (70 kilometers per hour). They use their wings to stay balanced as they run. If it can't run away from danger, it drops to the ground and remains still. Its color helps it camouflage with the soil!

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2. Read the paragraph. Then, in your own words, write four or five sentences introducing Sally Ride.

Sally Ride was the first American woman to fly into space. She was born in California in 1951. After graduating high school, she went to Stanford University where she earned a degree in physics. Physics is the study of motion. When Sally was a student, she saw an advertisement in her school newspaper looking for women to apply to the NASA astronaut program. She decided to apply and she was one of the six women picked! In 1983, Sally Ride became an astronaut on a space shuttle mission. Her main job was to work a robotic arm that helped put satellites into space. Later in her career, Sally Ride worked to help students (especially girls) study science and math. She came up with an idea called the EarthKAM, which lets middle school students take pictures of Earth using a camera on the International Space Station.

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