

# BOOKSUM: A Collection of Datasets for Long-form Narrative Summarization

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## Abstract

The majority of available text summarization datasets include short-form source documents that lack long-range causal and temporal dependencies, and often contain strong layout and stylistic biases. While relevant, such datasets will offer limited challenges for future generations of text summarization systems. We address these issues by introducing BOOKSUM, a collection of datasets for long-form narrative summarization. Our dataset covers source documents from the literature domain, such as novels, plays and stories, and includes highly abstractive, human written summaries on three levels of granularity of increasing difficulty: paragraph-, chapter-, and book-level. The domain and structure of our dataset poses a unique set of challenges for summarization systems, which include: processing very long documents, non-trivial causal and temporal dependencies, and rich discourse structures. To facilitate future work, we trained and evaluated multiple extractive and abstractive summarization models as baselines for our dataset.

## 1 Introduction

Text summarization aims at condensing long documents into a short, human-readable form which contains only the salient parts of the summarized source. Leveraging the cutting-edge findings in natural language processing, such as multi-task learning methods (Raffel et al., 2019), pre-training strategies (Zhang et al., 2019a), and memory-efficient architectures (Zaheer et al., 2020), text summarization has seen substantial progress.

The majority of papers published in the field focus on summarizing newswire documents from popular datasets, such as CNN/DailyMail (Nallapati et al., 2016), XSum (Narayan et al., 2018), and Newsroom (Grusky et al., 2018). Other domains gaining interest of the research community are scientific articles and legal documents, with notable

datasets being Arxiv/PubMed (Cohan et al., 2018) and BigPatent (Sharma et al., 2019). While the performance of state-of-the-art methods on those datasets is impressive, the mentioned domains have several inherent shortcomings, thus representing limited challenges for future generations of text summarization systems. First, the length of summarized documents is limited, ranging from only a few hundred words in case of news articles, to a few pages for scientific documents and patent applications (Grusky et al., 2018; Cohan et al., 2018; Sharma et al., 2019). In most cases, such short-form documents can be quickly read by humans, thus limiting the practical value of automatic summarization systems. Furthermore, many news sources offer article highlights while scientific articles contain author-written abstracts making automatically generated summaries less relevant. Second, the domains under consideration impose strict requirements regarding the document’s layout and stylistic features<sup>1</sup>. Statements should follow a logical order and all facts should be offered explicitly, leaving limited space for interpretation and reasoning. Additionally, such constraints, can introduce strong layout biases into the datasets which later dominate the training signal of the summarization systems. The lead-bias present in news articles being one example of such effects (Kedzie et al., 2018; Kryściński et al., 2019). Third, documents in the mentioned domains lack long-range causal and temporal dependencies, and rich discourse structures. Due to the limited length and fact-centric style of writing, most causal dependencies span only a few paragraphs, temporal dependencies are organized in a monotonic fashion where newly introduced facts refer only to previously stated information, and document lacks features such as parallel plot lines.

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<sup>1</sup>[owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](http://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)

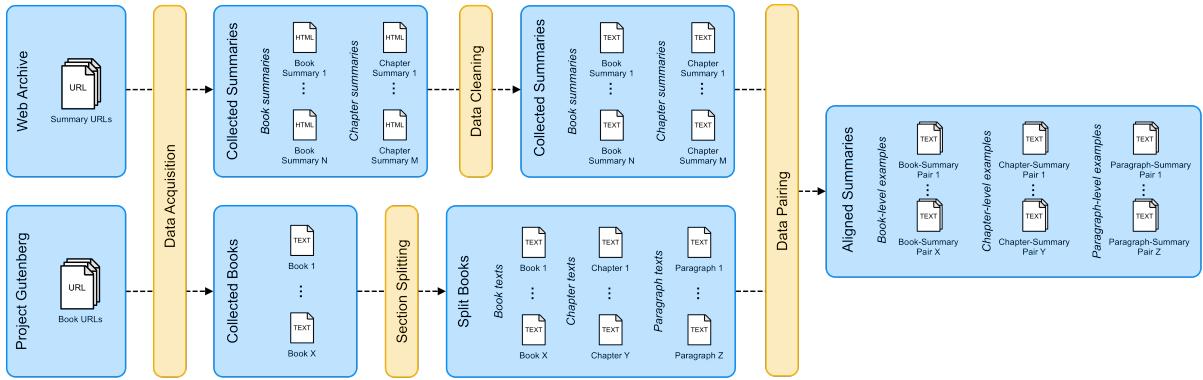


Figure 1: The data collection and pre-processing pipeline used to create the BOOKSUM collection.

In this work we address the shortcomings of existing datasets and introduce BOOKSUM, a collection of data resources for long-form narrative summarization. The data covers documents from the literature domain, including stories, plays, and novels (Fig. 2), each provided with highly abstractive, human-written summaries. Leveraging the characteristics of fiction writing, BOOKSUM introduces a set of new challenges for automatic summarization systems: processing long-form texts ranging up to hundreds of pages, understanding non-trivial causal and temporal dependencies spread out through the entirety of the source, handling documents with rich discourse structure which include parallel plots or changes between narration and dialogue, and generating highly abstractive and compressive reference summaries. Solving such challenges will not only require substantial progress in automatic document understanding, but will also rely on new findings in computationally efficient architectures (Zaheer et al., 2020). To support incremental progress, the BOOKSUM collection includes examples on three levels of granularity with increasing difficulty: 1) paragraph-level, with inputs consisting of hundreds of words and short, single-sentence summaries, 2) chapter-level, with inputs covering several pages and multi-sentence summaries, 3) book-level, with inputs spanning up to hundreds of pages and multi-paragraph summaries. The hierarchical structure of the dataset, with aligned paragraph, chapter, and book-level data, also makes it a viable target for both single- and multi-document summarization approaches.

To demonstrate the new set of challenges for text summarization models introduced by the BOOKSUM corpus and lay the groundwork for future research, we evaluated several state-of-the-art extractive and abstractive summarization ar-

chitectures on the newly introduced task. We share the data preparation scripts together with the data alignments here: <http://github.com/salesforce/booksum>.

## 2 Related Work

The increasing popularity of digital documentation has translated into a number of novel, large-scale datasets for text summarization that span a variety of domains. In the news domain, Sandhaus (2008) introduced a curated dataset containing news articles from the New York Times magazine with associated summaries written by library scientists. Nallapati et al. (2016) collected articles from the CNN and DailyMail portals with multi-sentence article highlights repurposed as reference summaries. Narayan et al. (2018) aggregated articles from the BBC website with highly abstractive, single sentence reference summaries. Grusky et al. (2018) introduced a dataset spanning 38 news portals, with human written summaries extracted from the websites metadata. In the academic article domain, Cohan et al. (2018) collected scientific articles from the Arxiv and PubMeb online article repositories and used paper abstracts as reference summaries. Wang et al. (2020) aggregated a set of articles in the medical domain related to the Covid-19 pandemic, also using paper abstracts as reference summaries. Hayashi et al. (2020) introduced a multi-domain collection of scientific articles each with two associated summaries, one covering the article’s contributions, the other explaining the context of the work. Related to dialogue summarization, Pan et al. (2018) repurposed image captioning and visual dialogue datasets to create a summarization dataset containing conversations describing an image, with image captions considered the reference summaries. Gliwa et al. (2019) introduced a corpus

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### Text from "Sense and Sensibility", Chapter 1

The family of Dashwood had long been settled in Sussex. Their estate was large, and their residence was at Norland Park, in the centre of their property, where, for many generations, they had lived in so respectable a manner as to engage the general good opinion of their surrounding acquaintance. The late owner of this estate was a single man, who lived to a very advanced age, and who for many years of his life, had a constant companion and housekeeper in his sister. But her death, which happened ten (...)

### Summary from Gradesaver

The Dashwood family is introduced; they live at Norland Park, an estate in Sussex, which has been in their family for many years. Henry Dashwood has a son by a previous marriage, who is well-off because of his long-deceased mother's fortune; Mr. Dashwood also has three daughters by his present wife, who are left with very little when he dies and the estate goes to his (...)

### Summary from Shmoop

We begin with a history of the Dashwood family of Sussex, England: the head of the family, old Mr. Dashwood, dies and distributes his estate among his surviving relatives: his nephew, Henry Dashwood, and his children. The children include one son, John, from a first marriage, and three daughters, Elinor, Marianne, and Margaret, from his second. Even though John and his (...)

### Summary from Cliffnotes

For many years, Henry Dashwood and his family had lived at Norland Park and cared for its owner, Henry's aged uncle. On the old man's death, Henry inherited the estate. He had always expected that he would be free to leave it, in turn, to be shared among his wife and three daughters. John, his son by a previous marriage, was amply provided for. His mother had left him a large (...)

### Summary from Sparknotes

Old Mr. Dashwood is the owner of a large estate in Sussex called Norland Park. Following the death of his sister, Mr. Dashwood invites his nephew Mr. Henry Dashwood to come live with him at Norland. The younger Mr. Dashwood brings John Dashwood, his son from a previous marriage, as well as the three daughters born to his present wife. John Dashwood is grown and (...)

### Summary from Novelguide

Sense and Sensibility opens by introducing the Dashwood family, whose fortunes the novel follows. The Dashwoods have for many generations owned and occupied the country estate of Norland Park in Sussex, England. The recent owner, Henry Dashwood, inherited the estate from a Dashwood uncle, referred to as "the old Gentleman." Henry Dashwood has a son, (...)

### Summary from BarronBooks

Mr. Henry Dashwood is leading a comfortable and happy life with his family at Norland Estate, which belongs to his uncle. He is the rightful heir to the property. However, after his uncle's death, it is revealed that his son, John Dashwood, and his grandson, Harry, are to inherit the estate. Mr. Henry Dashwood is obviously disappointed. He is concerned about the welfare of his (...)

Table 1: Examples of chapter-level summaries of "Sense and Sensibility" collected from different sources. Text spans underlined with the same color highlight the high semantic and low lexical overlap between the summaries indicating that the summaries are highly abstractive.

of casual conversations between hired annotators designed to mimic interactions on a messaging application with human written reference summaries. In the legal domain, [Sharma et al. \(2019\)](#) has collected and curated a large collection of patent filings with associated, author-written invention descriptions.

Despite the increased interest in the broader field of text summarization, little work has been done in summarizing stories and novels. In [Kazantseva \(2006\)](#), the authors focused on generating extractive overviews of short works of fiction. The work proposed two modeling approaches, one utilizing decision trees the other based on a manually designed system of rules with experiments conducted on a set of 23 short stories. [Mihalcea and Ceylan \(2007\)](#) introduced the task of book summarization along with a set of resources and baselines. The authors collected and curated a set of 50 books from

the Gutenberg Project with two human-written summaries associated with each book collected from online study guides. The work also provided a set of baselines based on unsupervised ranking-based summarization systems. More recently, [Zhang et al. \(2019b\)](#) tackled the problem of generating character descriptions based on short fiction stories. The authors collected a dataset of stories with associated, author-written summaries from online story-sharing platforms and proposed two baseline methods for solving the task. [Ladhak et al. \(2020\)](#) explored the problem of content selection in novel chapter summarization. The authors studied different approaches to aligning paragraphs from book chapters with sentences from associated summaries and created a silver-standard dataset for extractive summarization. The work also studied the performance of extractive summarization systems on the task.

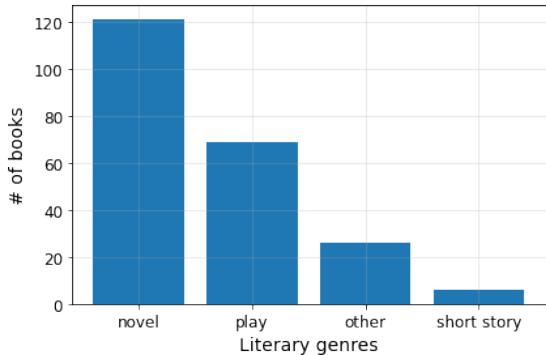


Figure 2: Distribution of literary genres included in BOOKSUM. The *other* category includes works such as autobiographies, poems, and political books.

Our work extends the prior efforts made by Ladakh et al. (2020); Mihalcea and Ceylan (2007). The BOOKSUM corpus offers aligned data on three levels of granularity (paragraph, chapter, full-book) and substantially increases the number of available examples. We also benchmark the performance of state-of-the-art extractive and abstractive methods on all introduced data subsets.

### 3 Dataset

In this section we describe the data sources and pre-processing steps taken to create the BOOKSUM data collection and conduct an in-depth analysis of the collected resources.

#### 3.1 Data Collection

The data collection and pre-processing pipeline is visualized in Figure 1.

**Data Sources** Despite the popularity of books in electronic format, aggregating and sharing literature pieces is a non-trivial task due to the copyright law protecting such documents. The source documents available in BOOKSUM were collected from the Project Gutenberg public-domain book repository<sup>2</sup> and include plays, short stories, and novels of which copyrights have expired. Associated summaries were collected using content provided by the Web Archive<sup>3</sup>. The summary data includes both book- and chapter-level summaries.

**Data Acquisition** Source texts were downloaded in plain text format in accordance with Project Gutenberg’s guidelines<sup>4</sup>. The data collection con-

tains texts exclusively from the US edition of Project Gutenberg. Summaries were collected using content provided by the Web Archive and processed using the BeautifulSoup library<sup>5</sup>. Collecting summaries from several independent sources with small content overlaps between them resulted in certain texts having multiple associated summaries. Upon manual inspection, substantial stylistic differences were found between the related summaries, thus such coverage overlap was considered advantageous for the dataset.

**Data Cleaning & Splitting** To ensure high quality of the data, both the source texts and summaries were cleaned after collection. Metadata containing author, title, and publisher information was removed from source files. The documents were manually split into individual chapters to accommodate chapter-level summarization. Due to the unstructured nature of plain text files, heuristic approaches were used to extract chapter content. Initial, automatic chapterization was done using the regex-based Chapterize tool<sup>6</sup>. However, an inspection of outputs revealed many partially processed and unprocessed files, such instances were chapterized manually by the authors of this work. Paragraph-level data was obtained by further splitting the extracted chapter into individual paragraphs based on a white-character pattern. Short paragraphs and dialogue utterances were aggregated to form longer paragraphs. Collected summaries were also inspected for scraping artifacts and superfluous information. Regular expressions were used to remove leftover HTML tags, author’s notes, and analysis parts that were not directly related to the content of the summary.

**Data Pairing** Source texts and associated summaries were collected independently of each other and required alignment. The pairing procedure was conducted in phases, starting with coarse-grained full-text alignments and ending with fine-grained paragraph alignments, with each phase involving automatic alignments followed by manual inspection and fixes. Full texts were paired with summaries based on title matches and later verified by matching author names. To accommodate automatic alignment, titles were normalized into a common format with lower-case letters and all punc-

<sup>2</sup>US edition: <https://www.gutenberg.org/>

<sup>3</sup><https://web.archive.org/>

<sup>4</sup>[https://www.gutenberg.org/policy/robot\\_access.html](https://www.gutenberg.org/policy/robot_access.html)

<sup>5</sup><https://crummy.com/software/BeautifulSoup/>

<sup>6</sup><https://github.com/JonathanReeve/chapterize>

Dataset	# Docs.	Coverage	Density	Comp. Ratio	# Tokens	
					Source	Summary
Arxiv/PubMed	346,187	0.87	3.94	31.17	5179.22	257.44
BigPatent	1,341,306	0.86	2.38	36.84	3629.04	116.66
CNN/DM	311,971	0.85	3.47	14.89	803.67	59.72
Newsroom	1,212,739	0.83	9.51	43.64	799.32	31.18
XSum	226,677	0.66	1.09	19.25	438.43	23.89
NovelChapters*	8,088	-	-	-	5,165	372
BOOKSUM Paragraph (ours)	142,753	0.50	0.92	6.47	159.55	40.59
BOOKSUM Chapter (ours)	12,293	0.78	1.69	15.97	5101.88	505.42
BOOKSUM Full (ours)	436	0.89	1.82	126.22	112885.15	1167.20

Table 2: Statistics of the BOOKSUM data collection compared with other popular text summarization datasets.

\*NovelChapters dataset (Ladhak et al., 2020) could not be reliably reproduced at the time of writing of this work, the numbers were copied from the original paper.

tuation characters removed. Chapter alignments were based on chapter metadata, extracted during source text chapterization, and chapter titles collected from online study guides. Similar to full-text titles, chapter names were transformed to a common format with chapter names lower-case and cleaned from punctuation characters, and chapter numbers translated to roman numerals. Paragraph-level alignments were computed between paragraphs extracted from chapters and individual sentences of chapter-level summaries. Following Ladhak et al. (2020), the alignment process was preceded by a human-based study aimed at finding an optimal alignment strategy, with its details presented in Appendix A. With the insights from the study, paragraph-sentence similarities were computed using a SentenceTransformer (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019), and leveraged a stable matching algorithm (Gale and Shapley, 1962) to obtain the final alignments. All examples on the chapter- and full-text-level were manually inspected to ensure high quality of annotations. Due to a large number of instances on the paragraph-level, alignment quality was verified by inspecting a random subset of pairs.

**Data Splits** The data was split into training, validation, and test subsets in a 80/10/10% proportion. To prevent data leakage between data subsets, the splits were assigned per book title, meaning that all paragraph, chapter, and full-book examples belonging to the same book title were assigned to the same data split. For consistency with the dataset introduced by Ladhak et al. (2020), all titles overlapping between the two datasets were assigned to the same splits. Remaining titles were assigned to splits at random following the predefined size proportions.

### 3.2 Data Analysis

**Data Statistics** The data collection and matching process described in Section 3.1 yielded 222 unique book titles with a total of 6,987 book chapters. After the pre-processing and alignment steps, the BOOKSUM collection contains 142,753 paragraph-level, 12,293 chapter-level, and 436 book-level examples. Figure 2 shows the distribution of literary genres in our corpus. Following Grusky et al. (2018), we computed statistics of the BOOKSUM collection and compared them with other popular summarization datasets in Table 2. Coverage and density, which measure the extractive span similarity between source and summary, indicate that while the extractiveness of summaries increases from 0.5 and 0.92 for paragraphs to 0.89 and 1.82 for full-books, the summaries are still highly abstractive when compared to other datasets, such as CNN/DM or Newsroom. Relatively low coverage and density scores for paragraph-level alignments might partially be an artifact of the heuristic approach to aligning the data. The lengths of source and summary texts substantially increases across data granularity. Paragraph-level data includes short documents with an average of 159 words which fit within the limitations of existing models, chapter-level examples contain texts with average of over 5000 words, which are longer than in most of existing datasets and go beyond limitations of many state-of-the-art methods (Liu et al., 2019), while book-level examples contain inputs with over 110,000 words on average, which are orders of magnitude longer than any document previously used in NLP tasks. While long source documents create computational challenges for encoding components of models, the associated summaries on chapter- and book-level are also much longer than in any

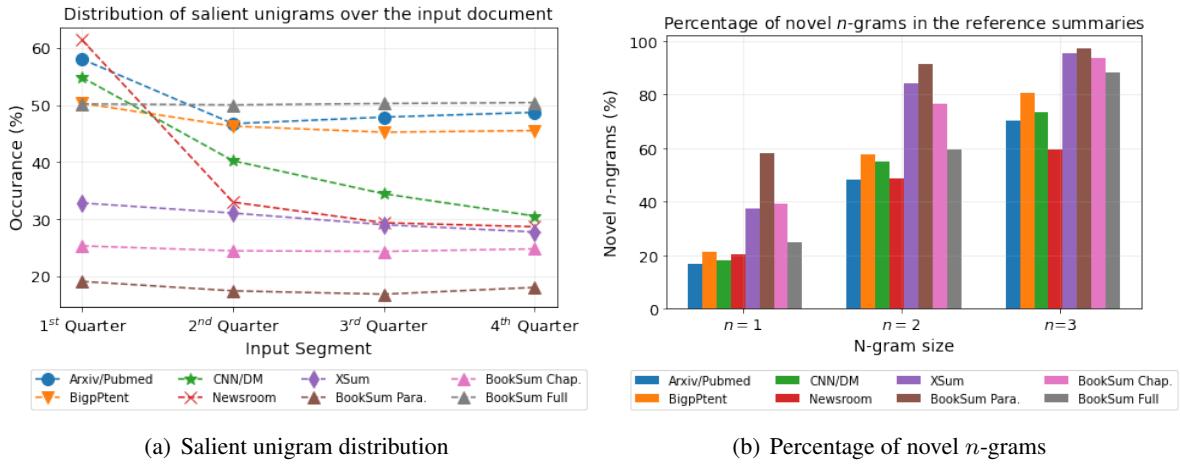


Figure 3: The datasets statistics of BOOKSUM and previously introduced datasets. Figure (a) shows the salient unigram distribution over 4 equally sized segments of the source documents. Figure (b) shows the percentage of novel  $n$ -grams in the reference summaries when compared with the source documents.

other dataset, thus creating challenges for the generative component of summarization methods.

**Salient Content Distribution** To assess the difficulty of content selection in our datasets we measure the distribution of salient unigrams in the source texts (Sharma et al., 2019). The distribution is computed as the percentage of salient unigrams in four equally sized segments of the source text, where salient unigrams are words appearing in the associated summaries after removing stop-words. As shown in Figure 3 (a), all subsets of the BOOKSUM dataset have a relatively even distribution of salient words across all four segments of the source documents. This suggests that to generate high quality paragraph, chapter, or book summaries models will have to use the entire source document instead of only relying on parts of it. In comparison, other datasets, such as CNN/DM, Newsroom, or Arxiv/Pubmed, contain strong layout biases where the majority of salient words appear in the first quarter of the source documents.

**Summary Abstractiveness** To quantify the abstractiveness of summaries in BOOKSUM we measured the percentage of  $n$ -grams from summaries not appearing in the associated source document (See et al., 2017). Results presented in Figure 3 (b) show that BOOKSUM contains highly abstractive summaries across all measured  $n$ -gram sizes. The highest ratio of novel  $n$ -grams in BOOKSUM was found for the paragraph-level alignments, followed by chapter-level data and full-books. Results also indicate that our dataset is substantially

more abstractive than most previous datasets, with the exception of XSum. High novelty scores for trigrams also indicate that summaries included in BOOKSUM do not contain long extractive spans, which aligns with the Density statistics presented in Table 2.

**Qualitative Study** For a deeper understanding of the data beyond quantitative evaluation, we manually analyzed subsets of BOOKSUM. First we compared summaries on different levels of granularity assigned to the same title. Summaries on the chapter- and book-level partially overlap in the summarized content, however substantially differ in the level of detail with which they cover the content. This relation could be leveraged for training models in a hierarchical fashion, from shorter to longer source texts (Li et al., 2015). Next, we compared summaries coming from different sources which were aligned with the same book or chapter. We noticed that the summaries had high semantic and low lexical overlap, meaning that they covered the same content of the summarized documents, but were written in a unique way. Such examples contain useful training signal for abstractive summarization models. Table 1 shows examples of chapter summaries of "Sense and Sensibility".

## 4 Experiments

To motivate the challenges posed by the BOOKSUM corpus, we study the performance of multiple baseline models, both extractive and abstractive, on the different levels of alignment: paragraph, chapter and books. We refer to these levels of alignment

Models	BOOKSUM-Paragraph					BOOKSUM-Chapter					BOOKSUM-Book				
	R-1 <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	R-2 <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	R-L <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	BS <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	SQA <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	R-1 <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	R-2 <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	R-L <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	BS <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	SQA <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	R-1 <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	R-2 <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	R-L <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	BS <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>	SQA <sub>f<sub>1</sub></sub>
Heuristics															
Lead-3	18.12	3.18	12.68	0.084	26.77	15.70	2.46	9.06	0.001	12.18	6.99	0.91	4.57	-0.057	9.19
Random Sentences	17.93	3.09	12.30	0.075	10.36	13.83	1.50	7.94	-0.017	8.20	5.21	0.54	3.23	-0.091	7.21
Extractive Oracle	27.27	6.81	20.30	0.156	19.70	42.68	9.66	21.33	0.150	13.49	46.62	9.17	18.31	0.082	21.16
Extractive Models															
CNN-LSTM	16.31	2.72	12.58	0.068	15.18	32.50	5.75	13.65	0.075	11.27	35.16	5.71	13.03	0.016	21.47
BertExt	14.14	2.18	10.26	0.053	14.89	33.04	5.78	13.74	0.082	14.33	36.71	6.16	13.40	0.028	24.83
MatchSum	18.06	2.97	13.35	0.101	17.79	30.26	4.81	12.90	0.072	8.02	31.77	4.78	12.22	0.009	23.22
Abstractive Models															
BART zero-shot	17.39	2.21	12.93	0.121	13.58	32.15	5.54	14.27	0.089	12.59	35.38	5.38	12.95	0.022	12.97
T5 zero-shot	19.10	3.29	13.46	0.082	20.41	31.8	5.41	13.00	0.075	20.49	35.43	5.62	12.02	0.011	22.77
PEGASUS zero-shot	13.98	1.74	10.93	0.093	10.50	28.70	4.43	13.34	0.056	9.69	32.24	4.84	12.20	0.004	10.50
BART fine-tuned	22.08	4.82	16.89	0.187	17.31	37.09	8.23	15.37	0.139	16.98	29.97	6.02	10.97	0.036	20.46
T5 fine-tuned	21.01	4.74	16.83	0.198	15.80	37.38	8.42	16.77	0.150	15.40	39.46	7.69	13.77	0.060	18.33
PEGASUS fine-tuned	19.47	4.32	15.70	0.179	12.37	36.17	7.79	16.09	0.129	13.12	35.29	6.79	12.71	0.042	18.76

Table 3: Performance of baseline models on the Paragraph, Chapter, and Full-Book subsets of BOOKSUM evaluated with automatic metrics: ROUGE-n (R-n), BERTScore (BS), and SummaQA (SQA).

as BOOKSUM-Paragraph, BOOKSUM-Chapter, and BOOKSUM-Book accordingly.

#### 4.1 Baseline Models

**Lead-3** (See et al., 2017) is an extractive heuristic where the first three sentences from the source document are treated as the summary. Despite its simplicity, Lead-3 is a strong baseline for domains which show layout biases, such as newswire.

**Random Sentences** follows the Lead-3 heuristic and extracts 3 sentences sampled at random from the source document. It represents the performance of an untrained extractive baseline.

**CNN-LSTM Extractor** (Chen and Bansal, 2018) builds hierarchical sentence representations which capture long-range dependencies using a CNN and bi-directional LSTM-RNN layers. A separate LSTM-based pointer network is applied to the representations to extract summary sentences.

**BertExt** (Liu and Lapata, 2019) extends the BERT (Devlin et al., 2019) model with the ability to generate distinct representations for multiple text spans. Based on those representations the model selects sentences into the extractive summary.

**MatchSum** (Zhong et al., 2020) formulates extractive summarization as a semantic text matching problem. Multiple candidate summaries are extracted and embedded as dense vectors using a Siamese-BERT model and matched with the reference text in the semantic space.

**BART** (Lewis et al., 2019) uses a denoising autoencoder pre-training strategy designed specifically for NLG tasks. It has achieved state-of-the-art

results on many generative tasks, including abstractive text summarization.

**T5** (Raffel et al., 2019) approaches transfer learning by unifying multiple NLP tasks into a common text-to-text format. All tasks are modeled with a large-scale seq-to-seq Transformer architecture in the order of billions of parameters. The model can be used to generate abstractive summaries using a *summarize:* prefix added to the text.

**PEGASUS** (Zhang et al., 2019a) uses a pre-training objective designed for abstractive text summarization which includes masked language modeling and gap sentence generation. The model achieved state-of-the-art performance on multiple summarization datasets.

#### 4.2 Setup

**Modeling** Computational constraints and input length limits of pre-trained models prevent us from training the baselines on long input sequences. To circumvent those issues we follow a *generate & rank* approach for BOOKSUM-Chapter and BOOKSUM-Book. We use baseline models fine-tuned on BOOKSUM-Paragraph, to *generate* individual summaries for all paragraphs in BOOKSUM-Chapter and BOOKSUM-Book. Next, we *rank* the generated summaries based on the model’s confidence. In case of abstractive models we look at the perplexity-level, for extractive models we take the model assigned scores. As the final chapter- or book-level summary we combine the top-*k* *ranked* paragraph-summaries, where *k* is chosen based on summary length statistics in the training set.

**Extractive Oracle** We follow the steps described by Zhong et al. (2020) to generate oracle candidates for the BOOKSUM-Paragraph data. First, we compute a mean ROUGE- $\{1,2,L\}$  score between each sentence in a paragraph and the associated summary. Next, we select the 5 highest scoring sentences and generate all combinations of 1, 2, and 3 sentences to serve as candidate oracles. The final oracle chosen from the set of candidates is the one which maximizes the mean ROUGE- $\{1,2,L\}$  score with the paragraph summary.

**Implementation** Models were implemented in Python using the PyTorch (Paszke et al., 2019) and Huggingface (Wolf et al., 2019) libraries. Abstractive models were initialized from pretrained checkpoints shared through the Huggingface Model Hub. Checkpoint details are listed in Appendix B.

**Training & Inference** All models were trained for 10 epochs and evaluated on the validation split at the end of each epoch. Final model checkpoints were chosen based on the performance of models on the validation data. Model outputs were decoded using beam search with 5 beams and  $n$ -gram repetition blocking for  $n > 3$  (Paulus et al., 2018).

**Evaluation Metrics** Models were evaluated using a suite of automatic evaluation metrics included in the SummEval toolkit (Fabbri et al., 2021). Lexical overlap between  $n$ -grams in generated and reference summaries was measured using ROUGE- $\{1,2,L\}$  metrics (Lin, 2004). Semantic overlap between mentioned summaries was evaluated using BERTScore (Zhang et al., 2020), which aligns summaries on a token-level based on cosine similarity scores between token embeddings. We also inspect content overlap between generated summaries and source documents by employing SummaQA (Scialom et al., 2019), which generates questions based on the input document and next applies a QA system to evaluate how many of those questions can be answered using the summary. Due to the input length limits of SummaQA, the metric was applied individually to paragraphs of chapters and books and next aggregated by averaging to obtain chapter and book-level scores.

### 4.3 Results

Performance of the baseline models described in Section 4.1 and evaluated using automatic metrics is presented in Table 3. Examples of summaries

generated by all baseline models on all data subsets are presented in Appendix C.

A general trend showing across all evaluated models is low BERTScore values which decrease as reference summaries get longer (from paragraphs to full books). The metric operates on a  $[-1, 1]$  range, and the highest scores, slightly above 0.19, were achieved by the fine-tuned T5 model on a paragraph level. This suggests that BERTScore might not be a good fit for evaluating highly abstractive, long summaries. We decided to include it in the evaluation process to highlight this issue for future investigation.

**Heuristics** The performance of the Lead-3 baseline is relatively low, scoring an R-1 of 18.12, 14.94, and 6.99 on the paragraph-, chapter-, and book-level respectively. The random sentence baseline closely trails Lead-3 across all metrics and data splits. Both results suggest that data from the literature domain included in the BOOKSUM corpus may be less susceptible to layout biases present in other domains, such as newswire. The extractive oracle scores on paragraph data substantially underperformed those on the chapter and book data. This could be an artifact of the noisy data pairing procedure where the content of a highly abstractive summary sentences is only partially covered by the matched paragraph.

**Extractive Models** The performances of the CNN-LSTM and BertExt models are very similar, with the first model being better on paragraph data, and the second model performing better on chapters and books. The small performance gap between the two mentioned models is surprising considering that the BERT based model was initialized from a pre-trained checkpoint, while the CNN-LSTM model was trained from scratch. The MatchSum baseline which reported state-of-the-art performance on news domain datasets (Zhong et al., 2020) achieved the best performance on a paragraph level, but underperformed the other models on chapter and book summaries.

**Abstractive Models** We evaluated the performance of abstractive models both in a zero-shot setting and after fine-tuning on the BOOKSUM-Paragraph data. We find that fine-tuning models on the BOOKSUM data leads to consistent improvements across all models and data granularities, with the exception of the BART model on the book-level which performed better in a zero-shot fashion ac-

cording to the ROUGE metric, and the T5 model on the SQA metrics. Upon manual inspection of model outputs we noticed that zeroshot models included fragments of dialogues in the summaries which are less likely to be found in reference summaries, this in turn could contribute to the lower evaluation scores of zero-shot baselines. The T5 model achieved the best performance out of all the baseline models on chapter- and book-level data, while BART performed best on the paragraph-level. Despite its state-of-the-art performance on most summarization datasets (Zhang et al., 2019a), we found PEGASUS to underperform other baseline models, both in the zero-shot and fine-tuned setting.

#### 4.4 Discussion

The *generate & rank* approach allowed us to overcome the limitations of existing models and apply the baselines to the chapter- and book-level data. We recognize that generating and scoring sentences independently of each other has drawbacks, namely: 1) the generated summaries may lack coherence, 2) the content of selected sentences may overlap or be of low significance, which could negatively affect the overall relevance of the summary. However, the experiments discussed in this section were intended to be groundwork for the introduced task and we leave developing more tailored methods for future work.

The experiment results also show that BOOKSUM poses challenges not only for existing summarization models, but also for evaluation metrics and protocols. The abstractive nature of reference summaries makes lexical overlap measured by ROUGE an inadequate metric for model evaluation (Fabbri et al., 2021). Other recently introduced metrics, such as BERTScore and SummaQA, leverage pre-trained neural models, which in turn makes them subject to the same input length limitations as the evaluated summarization models. While the model-based metrics can be individually applied to chunks of the data and then aggregated, as in the case of SummaQA, such use was not studied by the authors and could affect the reliability of returned scores. Human-based studies, which are often used to assess dimensions omitted by automatic metrics, are also problematic when conducted with long-form data included in BOOKSUM. For example, assessing factual consistency requires annotators to be familiar with the content of the source document,

which in the case of chapters or books could span dozens of pages making such studies unreliable and prohibitively time consuming.

## 5 Conclusions

In this work we introduced BOOKSUM, a collection of datasets for long-form narrative summarization. BOOKSUM includes annotations on three levels of granularity of increasing difficulty: paragraph, chapter, and full-book. Through a quantitative analysis we compare our dataset to existing summarization corpora and show that BOOKSUM sets new challenges for summarization methods. We trained extractive and abstractive baseline models leveraging state-of-the-art pre-trained architectures to test the performance of current methods on the task of long-narrative summarization and to enable easy comparison with future methods. We hope our dataset will contribute to the progress made in the field of automatic text summarization.

## 6 Ethical Considerations

**Data Collection** All data described was collected exclusively for the academic purpose of conducting research. The purpose of using the summaries and data was only for training the model and not for public display or any other use. No data was stored upon completion of the research process.

**Data Biases** The BOOKSUM dataset contains books written or translated into English. These books are also more than fifty years old and so representative of society in that era. The various pretrained models we evaluated on our dataset carry biases of the data they were pretrained on. However, we did not stress test these models for such ethical biases. We request our users to be aware of these ethical issues in our dataset that might affect their models and evaluations.

**Evaluation Biases** We use certain pretrained models as metrics for evaluation including the BERTScore and SummaQA. These metrics carry biases of the data they were trained on. For example, they have been known to have bias associating professions with a particular gender.

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## A Data Alignment Process

Alignments between book paragraphs and sentences from associated summaries were computed using heuristic methods. The alignment process followed two steps described by Ladhak et al. (2020): 1) similarity scores were computed for all paragraph-sentence pairs, 2) based on the similarity scores paragraph and sentence were aligned using a stable matching algorithm. Similarity scores between paragraphs and sentences can be computed using different metrics. In our study, we focused on lexical overlap methods and neural embedding methods. The first computed a token overlap between paragraphs and sentences using the ROUGE toolkit and treated that as a similarity score. The second utilized neural networks to embed the text spans into dense vector representations and next computed the similarity score as the cosine distance between such vectors.

To choose the best similarity score metric we conducted a pilot study on a subset of 100 paragraph-sentences pairs sampled from the validation set. The sampled examples were matched using the procedure described above with different neural models used for embedding the text spans. The following similarity score methods were considered:

**ROUGE-wtd** (Ladhak et al., 2020) computes an average of token-weighted ROUGE- $\{1,2,L\}$  scores between the sentence and paragraph texts. Token weights approximate the saliency of words and are computed as an inverse frequency of word occurrences in the document.

**ROUGE-avg** (Ladhak et al., 2020) computes an average of (unmodified) ROUGE- $\{1,2,L\}$  scores between the sentence and paragraphs.

**BERTScore** (Zhang et al., 2020) measures semantic overlap between the words in the sentences and paragraphs. It aligns words in both text spans by maximizing the cosine similarity between BERT representations of the tokens.

**Cross-Encoder** (Humeau et al., 2019) performs self-attention over the sentence and paragraph text passed together through a Transformer network to generate a similarity score between the input pair.

**Bi-Encoder** (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019) uses a Transformer architecture to independently encode the sentence and paragraph texts into a dense vector

representation. The similarity score is calculated using cosine similarity between the sentence and paragraph representations. We evaluate two checkpoints for the Bi-Encoders as described in Table 5.

The quality of data alignments obtained during the pilot study was assessed by human judges hired through the Amazon Mechanical Turk platform. Workers were hired from English speaking countries and offered a wage of approximately 12 USD per hour. Annotators were shown paragraphs which were aligned with a shared summary sentence using the different methods. For each alignment the annotators were asked to label whether the paragraph-sentence pair is *related*, *somewhat related*, or *unrelated*. Each example was evaluated by three judges, *related* and *somewhat related* labels were merged into a single *positive* label and the majority vote was computed. Results of the study are presented in Table 4 and show the number of times a method was assigned a *positive* label. The best performing strategy which used a Bi-Encoder fine-tuned on paraphrase detection data.

Model	# selected
ROUGE-wtd	74
ROUGE-avg	66
BERTscore	68
Cross Encoder	72
Bi-Encoder (paraphrase)	<b>78</b>
Bi-Encoder (roBERTa)	74

Table 4: Number of times an alignment method received a positive label.

## B Model Checkpoints

Model	Checkpoint
Data Alignment Models	
Bi-Encoder (paraphrase)	sentence-transformers/paraphrase-distilroberta-base-v1
Bi-Encoder (roBERTa)	sentence-transformers/stsb-roberta-large
Cross-Encoder	cross-encoder/stsb-roberta-large
Baseline Models	
BertExt	bert-base-uncased
BART	facebook/bart-large-xsum
T5	t5-large
Pegasus	google/pegasus-xsum

Table 5: Huggingface Model Hub checkpoints used to initialize baseline and similarity score models

Many of the baselines presented in this work leveraged pre-trained checkpoints to initialize weights before fine-tuning on the BOOKSUM data. Table 5 lists the checkpoints used for each of the baselines.

## C Model outputs

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**Paragraph from “Sense and Sensibility”, Chapter 1**

---

The family of Dashwood had long been settled in Sussex. Their estate was large, and their residence was at Norland Park, in the centre of their property, where, for many generations, they had lived in so respectable a manner as to engage the general good opinion of their surrounding acquaintance. The late owner of this estate was a single man, who lived to a very advanced age, and who for many years of his life, had a constant companion and housekeeper in his sister. But her death, which happened ten years before his own, produced a great alteration in his home; for to supply her loss, he invited and received into his house the family of his nephew Mr. Henry Dashwood, the legal inheritor of the Norland estate, and the person to whom he intended to bequeath it. In the society of his nephew and niece, and their children, the old Gentleman’s days were comfortably spent. His attachment to them all increased. The constant attention of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dashwood to his wishes, which proceeded not merely from interest, but from goodness of heart, gave him every degree of solid comfort which his age could receive; and the cheerfulness of the children added a relish to his existence.

---

**Reference Summary - Paragraph-level (Shmoop)**

---

We begin with a history of the Dashwood family of Sussex, England: the head of the family, old Mr. Dashwood, dies and distributes his estate among his surviving relatives: his nephew, Henry Dashwood, and his children. Tragically, this arrangement doesn’t last long - Henry Dashwood dies, and his estate, including the money he’d recently inherited from his uncle, is re-distributed amongst his wife and children.

---

**Model Output: CNN-LSTM**

---

the family of dashwood had long been settled in sussex .

---

**Model Output: BertExt**

---

the family of dashwood had long been settled in sussex .

---

**Model Output: MatchSum**

---

But her death, which happened ten years before his own, produced a great alteration in his home; for to supply her loss, he invited and received into his house the family of his nephew Mr. Henry Dashwood, the legal inheritor of the Norland estate, and the person to whom he intended to bequeath it.

---

**Model Output: BART fine-tuned**

---

The Dashwood family has long been settled in Sussex, and their home was at Norland Park. The late owner of this estate was a single man, who lived to a very advanced age, and who for many years of his life had a constant companion and housekeeper in his sister. When his sister died, he invited his nephew Mr. Dashwood, the legal inheritor of the Norland estate, into his home.

---

**Model Output: BART zero-shot**

---

The story of the death of Henry Dashwood, 1st Earl of Norland, is told in a series of letters written by his son and daughter-in-law.

---

**Model Output: T5 fine-tuned**

---

The Dashwood family has been settled in Sussex for many generations.

---

**Model Output: T5 zero-shot**

---

the late owner of the norland estate was a single man, who lived to a very advanced age . to supply her loss, he invited and received into his house the family of his nephew . the old Gentleman’s days were comfortably spent with his nephew and niece .

---

**Model Output: PEGASUS fine-tuned**

---

The Dashwood family has long been settled in Sussex, and their estate is large. The late owner of the estate was a single man, who lived to a very advanced age, and who for many years of his life had a constant companion and housekeeper in his sister.

---

**Model Output: PEGASUS zero-shot**

---

The following is the will of Henry Dashwood, of Norland Park, Sussex.

---

Table 6: Examples of decoded summaries for one paragraph of “Sense and Sensibility, Chapter 1”.

---

**Paragraph from “Sense and Sensibility”, Chapter 1**

---

The family of Dashwood had long been settled in Sussex. Their estate was large, and their residence was at Norland Park, in the centre of their property, where, for many generations, they had lived in so respectable a manner as to engage the general good opinion of their surrounding acquaintance. The late owner of this estate was a single man, who lived to a very advanced age, and who for many years of his life, had a constant companion and housekeeper in his sister. But her death, which happened (...)

**Reference Summary - Chapter-level (Shmoop)**

---

We begin with a history of the Dashwood family of Sussex, England: the head of the family, old Mr. Dashwood, dies and distributes his estate among his surviving relatives: his nephew, Henry Dashwood, and his children. The children include one son, John, from a first marriage, and three daughters, Elinor, Marianne, and Margaret, from his second. Even though John and his (...)

**Model Output: CNN-LSTM**

---

margaret , the other sister , was a good-humored , well-disposed girl ; but as she had already imbibed a good deal of marianne 's romance , without having much of her sense , she did not , at thirteen , bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life . marianne 's abilities were , in many respects , quite equal to elinor 's . by a former marriage , mr. henry dashwood had one son : by his present lady , three daughters . no sooner was his father 's funeral over , than mrs. john dashwood , without sending any notice of her intention to her mother-in-law , arrived with her child and their attendants . when he gave his promise to his father , he meditated within himself to increase the fortunes of his sisters by the present of a thousand pounds a-piece . he was not an ill-disposed young man , unless to be rather cold hearted and rather selfish is to be ill-disposed : but he was , in general , well respected ; for he conducted himself with propriety in the discharge of his ordinary duties . so acutely did mrs. dashwood feel this ungracious behaviour , and so earnestly did she despise her daughter-in-law for it , that , on the arrival of the latter , she would have quitted the house for ever , had not the entreaty of her eldest girl induced her first to reflect on the propriety of going , and her own tender love for all her three children determined her afterwards to stay , and for their sakes avoid a breach with their brother . the family of dashwood had long been settled in sussex . elinor saw , with concern , the excess of her sister 's sensibility ; but by mrs. dashwood it was valued and cherished . mr. dashwood 's disappointment was , at first , severe ; but his temper was cheerful and sanguine ; and he might reasonably hope to live many years , and by living economically , lay by a considerable sum from the produce of an estate already large , and capable of almost immediate improvement . had he married a more amiable woman , he might have been made still more respectable than he was : – he might even have been made amiable himself : for he was very young when he married , and very fond of his wife . elinor , this eldest daughter , whose advice was so effectual , possessed a strength of understanding , and coolness of judgment , which qualified her , though only nineteen , to be the counsellor of her mother , and enabled her frequently to counteract , to the advantage of them all , that eagerness of mind in mrs. dashwood which must generally have led to imprudence . the prospect of four thousand a-year , in addition to his present income , besides the remaining half of his own mother 's fortune , warmed his heart , and made him feel capable of generosity . the old gentleman died : his will was read , and like almost every other will , gave as much disappointment as pleasure . he survived his uncle no longer ; and ten thousand pounds , including the late legacies , was all that remained for his widow and daughters . no one could dispute her right to come ; the house was her husband 's from the moment of his father 's decease ; but the indelicacy of her conduct was so much the greater , and to a woman in mrs. dashwood 's situation , with only common feelings , must have been highly unpleasing ; – but in her mind there was a sense of honor so keen , a generosity so romantic , that any offence of the kind , by whomsoever given or received , was to her a source of immovable disgust . he was neither so unjust , nor so ungrateful , as to leave his estate from his nephew ; – but he left it to him on such terms as destroyed half the value of the bequest . but mrs. john dashwood was a strong caricature of himself ; – more narrow-minded and selfish .

**Model Output: BertExt**

---

margaret , the other sister , was a good - humored , well - disposed girl ; but as she had already imbibed a good deal of marianne 's romance , without having much of her sense , she did not , at thirteen , bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life . marianne 's abilities were , in many respects , quite equal to elinor 's . elinor saw , with concern , the excess of her sister 's sensibility ; but by mrs. dashwood it was valued and cherished . the family of dashwood had long been settled in sussex . when he gave his promise to his father , he meditated within himself to increase the fortunes of his sisters by the present of a thousand pounds a-piece . by a former marriage , mr. henry dashwood had one son : by his present lady , three daughters . no sooner was his father 's funeral over , than mrs. john dashwood , without sending any notice of her intention to her mother - in - law , arrived with her child and their attendants . elinor , this eldest daughter , whose advice was so effectual , possessed a strength of understanding , and coolness of judgment , which qualified her , though only nineteen , to be the counsellor of her mother , and enabled her frequently to counteract , to the advantage of them all , that eagerness of mind in mrs. dashwood which must generally have led to imprudence . the resemblance between her and her mother was strikingly great . the old gentleman died : his will was read , and like almost every other will , gave as much disappointment as pleasure . had he married a more amiable woman , he might have been made still more respectable than he was : – he might even have been made amiable himself : for he was very young when he married , and very fond of his wife . mrs. john dashwood had never been a favourite with any of her husband 's family ; but she had had no opportunity , till the present , of shewing them with how little attention to the comfort of other people she could act when occasion required it . to him therefore the succession to the norland estate was not so really important as to his sisters ; for their fortune , independent of what might arise to them from their father 's inheriting that property , could be but small . mr. john dashwood had not the strong feelings of the rest of the family ; but he was affected by a recommendation of such a nature at such a time , and he promised to do every thing in his power to make them comfortable . by his own marriage , likewise , which happened soon afterwards , he added to his wealth . he was neither so unjust , nor so ungrateful , as to leave his estate from his nephew ; – but he left it to him on such terms as destroyed half the value of the bequest . his son was sent for as soon as his danger was known , and to him mr. dashwood recommended , with all the strength and urgency which illness could command , the interest of his mother - in - law and sisters , the constant attention of mr. and mrs. henry dashwood to his wishes , which proceeded not merely from interest , but from goodness of heart , gave him every degree of solid comfort which his age could receive ; and the cheerfulness of the children added a relish to his existence .

**Model Output: MatchSum**

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Margaret, the other sister, was a good-humored, well-disposed girl; but as she had already imbibed a good deal of Marianne's romance, without having much of her sense, she did not, at thirteen, bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life. Elinor, this eldest daughter, whose advice was so effectual, possessed a strength of understanding, and coolness of judgment, which qualified her, though only nineteen, to be the counsellor of her mother, and enabled her frequently to counteract, to the advantage of them all, that eagerness of mind in Mrs. Dashwood which must generally have led to imprudence. Mr. Dashwood's disappointment was, at first, severe; but his temper was cheerful and sanguine; and he might reasonably hope to live many years, and by living economically, lay by a considerable sum from the produce of an estate already large, and capable of almost immediate improvement. He was not an ill-disposed young man, unless to be rather cold hearted and rather selfish is to be ill-disposed: but he was, in general, well respected; for he conducted himself with propriety in the discharge of his ordinary duties. The late owner of this estate was a single man, who lived to a very advanced age, and who for many years of his life, had a constant companion and housekeeper in his sister. So acutely did Mrs. Dashwood feel this ungracious behaviour, and so earnestly did she despise her daughter-in-law for it, that, on the arrival of the latter, she would have quitted the house for ever, had not the entreaty of her eldest girl induced her first to reflect on the propriety of going, and her own tender love for all her three children determined her afterwards to stay, and for their sakes avoid a breach with their brother. No sooner was his father's funeral over, than Mrs. John Dashwood, without sending any notice of her intention to her mother-in-law, arrived with her child and their attendants. No one could dispute her right to come; the house was her husband's from the moment of his father's decease; but the indelicacy of her conduct was so much the greater, and to a woman in Mrs. Dashwood's situation, with only common feelings, must have been highly unpleasing;– but in HER mind there was a sense of honor so keen, a generosity so romantic, that any offence of the kind, by whomsoever given or received, was to her a source of immovable disgust. The old gentleman died: his will was read, and like almost every other will, gave as much disappointment as pleasure. Elinor saw, with concern, the excess of her sister's sensibility; but by Mrs. Dashwood it was valued and cherished. Had he married a more amiable woman, he might have been made still more respectable than he was;– he might even have been made amiable himself; for he was very young when he married, and very fond of his wife. But the fortune, which had been so tardy in coming, was his only one twelvemonth. By a former marriage, Mr. Henry Dashwood had one son: by his present lady, three daughters.

Table 7: Examples of decoded summaries of the Chapter 1 of “Sense and Sensibility”, part 1.

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**Model Output: BART fine-tuned**

The Dashwood family has long been settled in Sussex, and their home was at Norland Park. The late owner of this estate was a single man, who lived to a very advanced age, and who for many years of his life had a constant companion and housekeeper in his sister. When his sister died, he invited his nephew Mr. Dashwood, the legal inheritor of the Norland estate, into his home. Mr. Dashwood has one son, Henry, and three daughters. Margaret, the other sister, is a good-humored, well-disposed girl, but as she had already imbibed a good deal of Marianne's romance without having much of her sense, she does not, at thirteen, bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life. Mr. Dashwood dies, leaving his estate to his son and daughter-in-law. Mr. Dashwood's disappointment is at first severe, but his temper is cheerful and sanguine; and he might reasonably hope to live many years, and by living economically, lay by a considerable sum from the produce of an estate already large, and capable of almost immediate improvement. He was not an ill-disposed young man, unless to be rather cold hearted and rather selfish. He was, in general, well respected; for he conducted himself with propriety in the discharge of his ordinary duties. Had he married a more amiable woman, he might have been made still more respectable than he was:—he might even have been made amiable himself. But Mrs. Dashwood was a strong caricature of himself:—more narrow-minded and selfish. He resolves to give his sisters a thousand pounds a year. Mrs. Dashwood arrives at the funeral of her husband's father. Mrs. Dashwood's eldest daughter, Elinor, is the only one of the three Dashwood children who has any real influence on her mother. Marianne's abilities are equal to Elinor's in many respects. She is sensible and clever, but eager in everything; her sorrows, her joys, could have no moderation. Elinor and Mrs. Dashwood are both deeply affected by their sister-in-law's death.

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**Model Output: BART zero-shot**

The story of the death of Henry Dashwood, 1st Earl of Norland, is told in a series of letters written by his son and daughter-in-law. The death of Henry Dashwood, 1st Viscount Norland, was announced by his son-in-law, the Earl of Wessex. Marianne, the eldest sister, was a good-humored, well-disposed girl; but as she had already imbibed a good deal of Marianne's romance, she did not, at thirteen, bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life. The story of Mr. Dashwood, who lived at Norland, is as follows: When John Dashwood's uncle, who had been one of the richest men in the county, fell seriously ill, it was thought that he might live for many more years. John Dashwood was one of the most respectable men of his time. When George III was a young man, he promised to his father that he would give his sisters a thousand pounds a-year, if he should ever die. No sooner had John Dashwood's father died, than his mother-in-law came to the funeral. So acutely did Mrs. Dashwood feel this ungracious behaviour, and so earnestly did she despise her daughter-in-law for it, that, on the arrival of her eldest daughter, Elinor, to the house, she almost gave up hope of ever seeing her again. Marianne was the second daughter of Elinor, and the only one of her generation to be born in England. Elinor Dashwood and her sister-in-law were in the same state of grief when they arrived at the house, and in the space of a few hours they had become inseparable.

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**Model Output: T5 fine-tuned**

The Dashwood family has been settled in Sussex for many generations. Henry Dashwood has one son and three daughters. Margaret, the other sister, is a good-humored, well-disposed girl, but she does not, at thirteen, bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life. When Mr. Dashwood dies, he leaves half of his estate to his nephew. Mr. Dashwood is disappointed, but his temper is cheerful and sanguine, and he might reasonably hope to live many years. Mr. Dashwood is not an ill-disposed young man, unless he is cold-hearted and selfish. When he gives his promise to his father, he thinks of giving his sisters three thousand pounds a year. After his father's funeral, Mrs. Dashwood arrives with her child and their attendants. Mrs. Dashwood's eldest daughter, Elinor, advises her mother to stay in the house and avoid a breach with her brother. Marianne's abilities are, in many respects, equal to Elinor's. Elinor and Mrs. Dashwood are both deeply afflicted.

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**Model Output: T5 zero-shot**

the late owner of the norland estate was a single man, who lived to a very advanced age . to supply her loss, he invited and received into his house the family of his nephew . the old Gentleman's days were comfortably spent with his nephew and niece . by a former marriage, mr. dashwood had one son: by his present lady, three daughters . the son was amply provided for by the fortune of his mother, which was large . by his own marriage, which happened soon afterwards, he added to his wealth . but the succession to the norland estate was not so really important as to his sisters . Margaret, the other sister, was a good-humored, well-disposed girl . she did not, at thirteen, bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life . but she had already imbibed much of marianne's romance, without having much of her sense . the old gentleman dashwood left his estate to his nephew on such terms as destroyed half the value of the bequest . he left it to his son, and his son's son, a child of four years old, in such a way as to leave to himself no power of providing for those who were most dear to him . the fortune, which had been so tardy in coming, was his only one twelvemonth . ten thousand pounds, including the late legacies, was all that remained for his widow and daughters . his son was sent for as soon as his danger was known, and to him he recommended the interest of his mother-in-law and sisters . had he married a more amiable woman, he might have been made even more respectable than he was . but Mrs. dashwood was a strong caricature of himself:—more narrow-minded and selfish. a young man promised to give his sisters a thousand pounds a-piece . the prospect warmed his heart, and made him feel capable of generosity . he thought of it all day long and for many days successively, and he did not repent . no sooner was her father's funeral over, than Mrs. dashwood arrived . no one could dispute her right to come; the house was her husband's . but the indelicacy of her conduct was so much the greater . the eldest daughter, Elinor, possessed a strength of understanding, and coolness of judgment, which qualified her to be the counsellor of her mother . she had an excellent heart;—her disposition was affectionate, and her feelings were strong; but she knew how to govern them . Marianne's abilities were, in many respects, quite equal to her mother's . she was generous, amiable, interesting: everything but prudent . the resemblance between her and her mother was strikingly great . the agony of grief which overwhelmed them at first, was voluntarily renewed, was sought for, was created again and again . they gave themselves up wholly to their sorrow, seeking increase of wretchedness in every reflection that could afford it .

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**Model Output: PEGASUS fine-tuned**

The Dashwood family has long been settled in Sussex, and their estate is large. The late owner of the estate was a single man, who lived to a very advanced age, and who for many years of his life had a constant companion and housekeeper in his sister. Mr. Dashwood has one son and three daughters. Margaret, the other sister, is a good-humored, well-disposed girl; but as she had already imbibed a lot of Marianne's romance, without having much of her sense, she did not, at thirteen, bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life. Mr. Dashwood dies and leaves his estate to his son and his son's four-year-old son. Mr. Dashwood dies and leaves his fortune to his widow and daughters. He was not an ill-disposed young man, unless to be rather cold hearted and rather selfish is to be ill-disposed. He was, in general, well respected; for he conducted himself with propriety in the discharge of his ordinary duties. He promises to give his sisters three thousand pounds. Mrs. John Dashwood arrives with her child and their attendants. Mrs. Dashwood feels that her daughter-in-law's behavior is ungracious. She's smart, clever, and generous, but she's also a bit of a pessimist. Mrs. Dashwood and her sister-in-law are both deeply affected by the news.

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**Model Output: PEGASUS zero-shot**

The following is the will of Henry Dashwood, of Norland Park, Sussex. This is the story of the Dashwood family. Marianne, the eldest of the two sisters, was a kind-hearted young woman, with a good sense of humour. The following is an extract from the will of William Dashwood, of Norland, Leicestershire. The death of his uncle, who had been his father-in-law for many years, came as a shock to the Dashwood family. John Dashwood was a respectable man. The story begins with a promise made by a young man to his father. This is the story of the death of John Dashwood. It is said, by one of her sisters, that when her mother-in-law went to see her husband, she never returned. Marianne was Elinor's daughter. Elinor's sister-in-law was deeply afflicted by her illness, but she could not bear to see her in any worse condition than she was.

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Table 8: Examples of decoded summaries of the Chapter 1 of “Sense and Sensibility”, part 2.

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**Paragraph from “Sense and Sensibility”, Chapter 1**

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The family of Dashwood had long been settled in Sussex. Their estate was large, and their residence was at Norland Park, in the centre of their property, where, for many generations, they had lived in so respectable a manner as to engage the general good opinion of their surrounding acquaintance. The late owner of this estate was a single man, who lived to a very advanced age, and who for many years of his life, had a constant companion and housekeeper in his sister. But her death, which happened (...)

**Reference Summary - Book-level (Shmoop)**

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We begin with a history of the Dashwood family of Sussex, England: the head of the family, old Mr. Dashwood, dies and distributes his estate among his surviving relatives: his nephew, Henry Dashwood, and his children. The children include one son, John, from a first marriage, and three daughters, Elinor, Marianne, and Margaret, from his second. Even though John and his (...)

**Model Output: CNN-LSTM**

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margaret , the other sister , was a good-humored , well-disposed girl ; but as she had already imbibed a good deal of marianne 's romance , without having much of her sense , she did not , at thirteen , bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life . marianne 's abilities were , in many respects , quite equal to elinor 's . by a former marriage , mr. henry dashwood had one son : by his present lady , three daughters . no sooner was his father 's funeral over , than mrs. john dashwood , without sending any notice of her intention to her mother-in-law , arrived with her child and their attendants . when he gave his promise to his father , he meditated within himself to increase the fortunes of his sisters by the present of a thousand pounds a-piece . he was not an ill-disposed young man , unless to be rather cold hearted and rather selfish is to be ill-disposed : but he was , in general , well respected ; for he conducted himself with propriety in the discharge of his ordinary duties . so acutely did mrs. dashwood feel this ungracious behaviour , and so earnestly did she despise her daughter-in-law for it , that , on the arrival of the latter , she would have quitted the house for ever , had not the entreaty of her eldest girl induced her first to reflect on the propriety of going , and her own tender love for all her three children determined her afterwards to stay , and for their sakes avoid a breach with their brother . the family of dashwood had long been settled in sussex . elinor saw , with concern , the excess of her sister 's sensibility ; but by mrs. dashwood it was valued and cherished . mr. dashwood 's disappointment was , at first , severe ; but his temper was cheerful and sanguine ; and he might reasonably hope to live many years , and by living economically , lay by a considerable sum from the produce of an estate already large , and capable of almost immediate improvement . had he married a more amiable woman , he might have been made still more respectable than he was : – he might even have been made amiable himself : for he was very young when he married , and very fond of his wife . elinor , this eldest daughter , whose advice was so effectual , possessed a strength of understanding , and coolness of judgment , which qualified her , though only nineteen , to be the counsellor of her mother , and enabled her frequently to counteract , to the advantage of them all , that eagerness of mind in mrs. dashwood which must generally have led to imprudence . the prospect of four thousand a-year , in addition to his present income , besides the remaining half of his own mother 's fortune , warmed his heart , and made him feel capable of generosity . the old gentleman died : his will was read , and like almost every other will , gave as much disappointment as pleasure . he survived his uncle no longer ; and ten thousand pounds , including the late legacies , was all that remained for his widow and daughters . no one could dispute her right to come ; the house was her husband 's from the moment of his father 's decease ; but the indelicacy of her conduct was so much the greater , and to a woman in mrs. dashwood 's situation , with only common feelings , must have been highly unpleasing ; – but in her mind there was a sense of honor so keen , a generosity so romantic , that any offence of the kind , by whomsoever given or received , was to her a source of immovable disgust . he was neither so unjust , nor so ungrateful , as to leave his estate from his nephew ; – but he left it to him on such terms as destroyed half the value of the bequest . but mrs. john dashwood was a strong caricature of himself ; – more narrow-minded and selfish .

**Model Output: BertExt**

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margaret , the other sister , was a good - humored , well - disposed girl ; but as she had already imbibed a good deal of marianne 's romance , without having much of her sense , she did not , at thirteen , bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life . marianne 's abilities were , in many respects , quite equal to elinor 's . elinor saw , with concern , the excess of her sister 's sensibility ; but by mrs. dashwood it was valued and cherished . the family of dashwood had long been settled in sussex . when he gave his promise to his father , he meditated within himself to increase the fortunes of his sisters by the present of a thousand pounds a-piece . by a former marriage , mr. henry dashwood had one son : by his present lady , three daughters . no sooner was his father 's funeral over , than mrs. john dashwood , without sending any notice of her intention to her mother - in - law , arrived with her child and their attendants . elinor , this eldest daughter , whose advice was so effectual , possessed a strength of understanding , and coolness of judgment , which qualified her , though only nineteen , to be the counsellor of her mother , and enabled her frequently to counteract , to the advantage of them all , that eagerness of mind in mrs. dashwood which must generally have led to imprudence . the resemblance between her and her mother was strikingly great . the old gentleman died : his will was read , and like almost every other will , gave as much disappointment as pleasure . had he married a more amiable woman , he might have been made still more respectable than he was : – he might even have been made amiable himself : for he was very young when he married , and very fond of his wife . mrs. john dashwood had never been a favourite with any of her husband 's family ; but she had had no opportunity , till the present , of shewing them with how little attention to the comfort of other people she could act when occasion required it . to him therefore the succession to the norland estate was not so really important as to his sisters ; for their fortune , independent of what might arise to them from their father 's inheriting that property , could be but small . mr. john dashwood had not the strong feelings of the rest of the family ; but he was affected by a recommendation of such a nature at such a time , and he promised to do every thing in his power to make them comfortable . by his own marriage , likewise , which happened soon afterwards , he added to his wealth . he was neither so unjust , nor so ungrateful , as to leave his estate from his nephew ; – but he left it to him on such terms as destroyed half the value of the bequest . his son was sent for as soon as his danger was known , and to him mr. dashwood recommended , with all the strength and urgency which illness could command , the interest of his mother - in - law and sisters , the constant attention of mr. and mrs. henry dashwood to his wishes , which proceeded not merely from interest , but from goodness of heart , gave him every degree of solid comfort which his age could receive ; and the cheerfulness of the children added a relish to his existence .

**Model Output: MatchSum**

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Margaret, the other sister, was a good-humored, well-disposed girl; but as she had already imbibed a good deal of Marianne's romance, without having much of her sense, she did not, at thirteen, bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life. Elinor, this eldest daughter, whose advice was so effectual, possessed a strength of understanding, and coolness of judgment, which qualified her, though only nineteen, to be the counsellor of her mother, and enabled her frequently to counteract, to the advantage of them all, that eagerness of mind in Mrs. Dashwood which must generally have led to imprudence. Mr. Dashwood's disappointment was, at first, severe; but his temper was cheerful and sanguine; and he might reasonably hope to live many years, and by living economically, lay by a considerable sum from the produce of an estate already large, and capable of almost immediate improvement. He was not an ill-disposed young man, unless to be rather cold hearted and rather selfish is to be ill-disposed: but he was, in general, well respected; for he conducted himself with propriety in the discharge of his ordinary duties. The late owner of this estate was a single man, who lived to a very advanced age, and who for many years of his life, had a constant companion and housekeeper in his sister. So acutely did Mrs. Dashwood feel this ungracious behaviour, and so earnestly did she despise her daughter-in-law for it, that, on the arrival of the latter, she would have quitted the house for ever, had not the entreaty of her eldest girl induced her first to reflect on the propriety of going, and her own tender love for all her three children determined her afterwards to stay, and for their sakes avoid a breach with their brother. No sooner was his father's funeral over, than Mrs. John Dashwood, without sending any notice of her intention to her mother-in-law, arrived with her child and their attendants. No one could dispute her right to come; the house was her husband's from the moment of his father's decease; but the indelicacy of her conduct was so much the greater, and to a woman in Mrs. Dashwood's situation, with only common feelings, must have been highly unpleasing;–but in HER mind there was a sense of honor so keen, a generosity so romantic, that any offence of the kind, by whomsoever given or received, was to her a source of immovable disgust. The old gentleman died: his will was read, and like almost every other will, gave as much disappointment as pleasure. Elinor saw, with concern, the excess of her sister's sensibility; but by Mrs. Dashwood it was valued and cherished. Had he married a more amiable woman, he might have been made still more respectable than he was;–he might even have been made amiable himself; for he was very young when he married, and very fond of his wife. But the fortune, which had been so tardy in coming, was his only one twelvemonth. By a former marriage, Mr. Henry Dashwood had one son: by his present lady, three daughters.

Table 9: Examples of decoded summaries of the full text of “Sense and Sensibility”, part 1.

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### Model Output: BART<sub>fine-tuned</sub>

Table 10: Examples of decoded summaries of the full text of “Sense and Sensibility”, part 2.

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**Model Output: T5 fine-tuned**

Margaret, the other sister, is a good-humored, well-disposed girl, but she does not, at thirteen, bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life. Marianne asks Sir John about Mr. Willoughby, and he tells her that he is "a pleasant, good-humored fellow, and has the nicest little black bitch of a pointer I ever saw." Marianne says that she has been too open and sincere where she ought to have been reserved, spiritless, dull, and deceitful. In defense of your protege you can even be saucy. Willoughby tells Miss Dashwood that he has three reasons for disliking Colonel Brandon: he threatened her with rain when she wanted it to be fine, he found fault with the hanging of her curriole, and he cannot persuade him to buy her brown mare. This is the season of happiness for Marianne. Her heart is devoted to Willoughby and the fond attachment to Norland, which she brought with her from Sussex, was more likely to be softened than she had thought possible before, by the charms which his society bestowed on her present home. He tells Elinor that he once knew a lady who thought and judged like her, but who from an enforced change—from a series of unfortunate circumstances—had changed. The next morning, Marianne tells Elinor that Willoughby has given her a horse. Willoughby says that he would not sacrifice any sentiment of local attachment for all the improvements in the world, and that whatever unemployed sum may remain, when I make up my accounts in the spring, I would even rather lay it by than dispose of it in a manner so painful to you. Mrs. Dashwood assures him that no alteration of the kind should be attempted. I have no wish to be distinguished; and have every reason to hope I never shall. I cannot be forced into genius and eloquence. Marianne says that money can only give happiness where there is nothing else to give it. Beyond a competence, it can afford no real satisfaction. Mrs. Dashwood thinks Edward would be happier if he had a profession to engage his time and give an interest to his plans and actions. Mrs. Palmer, on the other hand, is hardly seated before her admiration of the parlor bursts forth. They are obliged to put an end to such an expectation. Mrs. Dashwood has been informed by her husband of the solemn promise on the part of his son in their favor, which gives comfort to his last earthly efforts. Elinor does not give him credit for being so genuinely and unaffectedly ill-bred as he wishes to appear. Mrs. Palmer asks the Dashwoods to come to Cleveland for Christmas. Mrs. Palmer's information about Willoughby is not very material, but any testimony in his favor is pleasing to her. The Palmers return to Cleveland the next day, and the two families at Barton are left to entertain each other. Edward Ferrars is not recommended to them by any peculiar graces of person or address. He is not handsome, and his manners require intimacy to make them pleasing. His understanding is good, but his behaviour gives every indication of an open, affectionate heart. He says he would rather do anything in the world than be thought so by a person whose good opinion is so worth having as yours. The Middletons follow in about a week. The Miss Steeles keep their station at the park and are to quit it only with the rest of the family. The house is very nice, and the young ladies are immediately put in possession of a very comfortable apartment. It had formerly been Charlottés, and over the mantelpiece still hung a landscape in coloured silks of her performance. Mrs. Palmer and two elderly ladies of Mrs. Jennings' intimate acquaintance dine with them, and Elinor is obliged to assist in making a whist table for the others. Elinor tells Mrs. Jennings that Sir John and Lady Middleton will be in town by the end of next week. Marianne is astonished to find how much the imagination of her mother and herself had outstripped the truth. Mrs. Dashwood decides that it would be better for Marianne to be anywhere, at that time, than at Barton, where everything within her view would be bringing back the past, such as she had always seen him there. Mrs. Ferrars is a little, thin woman, upright, even to formality, in her figure, and serious, even sour in her aspect. Elinor's curiosity to see Mrs. Ferrars is satisfied. She has seen enough of her pride, her meanness, and her determined prejudice against herself, to comprehend all the difficulties that must have perplexed the engagement, and retard the marriage, of Edward and herself, had he been otherwise free. She invites Mr. and Mrs. Dashwood to visit her at Barton. Mrs. Jennings praises Edward's behavior, but only Elinor and Marianne understand its true merit. Barton Cottage, though small, is comfortable and compact, but as a cottage it is defective, for the building is regular, the roof is tiled, the window shutters are not painted green, and the walls are not covered with honeysuckle. The next morning, Elinor receives a letter from Lucy. The Colonel is surprised to find that she is considering Mr. Ferrars' marriage as a certain consequence of the presentation, for he did not suppose it possible that Delaford living could supply such an income as anybody in his style of life would venture to settle on. John tells Elinor that when Edward's unhappy match takes place, his mother will feel as if she had never discarded him, and therefore every circumstance that may accelerate that dreadful event must be concealed from her as much as possible. When he first became intimate with my family, he had no other intention, no other view in the acquaintance but to pass his time pleasantly while he was obliged to remain in Devonshire, "more pleasantly than I had ever done before." Mrs. Jennings, Lady Middleton's mother, is a good-humored, merry, fat, elderly woman, full of jokes and laughter. But she will be gained by someone else. And if that someone should be the very one whom I could least bear—but I will not stay rob myself of all your compassionate goodwill by shewing that where I have most injured I can least forgive. Colonel Brandon, the friend of Sir John, seems no more adapted by resemblance to be his friend than Lady Middleton was to be Sir John's wife, or Mrs. Jennings to be Mary's mother. He thinks Marianne's affection too deeply rooted for any change in it under a great length of time, and even supposing her heart again free, is too difficult to believe, that with such a difference of age and disposition he could ever attach her. She sees them in their parsonage house, and sees in Lucy the active, contriving manager, uniting at once a desire of smart appearance with the utmost frugality, and ashamed to be suspected of half her economical practices. She will be more hurt by it, for Robert always was her favourite. He explains that he thought it his duty to give her the option of continuing the engagement or not, when he was renounced by his mother, and stood to all appearances without a friend in the world. Elinor scolds him for spending so much time with them at Norland, when he must have felt his own inconsistency. The first month after their marriage is spent with their friend at the Mansion-house, from which they could superintend the progress of the Parsonage, and direct everything as they liked on the spot. Marianne Dashwood is born to discover the falsehood of her own opinions and to counteract, by her conduct, her most favourite maxims. Marianne finds herself at nineteen, submitting to new attachments, entering on new duties, placed in a new home, a wife, the mistress of a family, and the patroness of the village.

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**Model Output: T5 zero-shot**

a gentleman carrying a gun, with two pointers playing round him, was passing up the hill and within a few yards of Marianne, when her accident happened . he put down his gun and ran to her assistance; she had raised herself from the ground, but her foot had been twisted in her fall, and she scarcely able to stand . perceiving that her modesty declined what her situation rendered necessary, he took her up in his arms without further delay, and carried her down the hill . "in defence of your protege you can even be saucy" "My protege, as you call him, is a sensible man," says marianne . "he has seen a great deal of the world; has been abroad, has read, and has a thinking mind." marianne abhorred all concealment where no real disgrace could attend unreserved; and to aim at the restraint of sentiments which were not in themselves illaudable, appeared to her an unnecessary effort . and their behaviour at all times, was an illustration of their opinions . "there are inconveniences attending such feelings as mariannes," said Elinor . "her systems have all the unfortunate tendency of setting propriety at nought" "a better acquaintance of the world is what i look forward to as her greatest possible advantage" "when the romantic refinements are obliged to give way, how frequently are they succeeded by such opinions as are but too common, and too dangerous!" "i once knew a lady who in temper and mind greatly resembled your sister, who thought and judged like her" "the lady would probably have passed without suspicion, had he not convinced Miss Dashwood that what concerned her ought not to escape his lips" "i have not known him long indeed, but i am much better acquainted with him, than i am with any other creature in the world, except yourself and mama" "of John i know very little, though we have lived together for years; but of Willoughby my judgment has long been formed." "i am particularly sorry, ma'am," said he, addressing lady middleton . "my own loss is great," he continued, "being obliged to leave so agreeable a party" "what can you have to do in town this time of year?" cried Mrs. Jennings . "if the impertinent remarks of Mrs. Jennings are to be the proof of impropriety in conduct, we are all offending every moment of our lives" "i am not sensible of having done anything wrong in walking over Mrs. Smiths grounds, or in seeing her house" "if they were one day to be your own, marianne, you would not be justified in what you have done." "nothing of the kind will be done; for my mother will never have money" "i am heartily glad of it," he cried . "may she always be poor, if she can employ her riches no better?" "if you were to see them at the altar, you would suppose they were going to be married, ungracious girl!" "nothing in my opinion has ever passed to justify doubt; no secrecy has been attempted; all has been uniformly open and unreserved." marianne would have thought herself very inexcusable had she been able to sleep at all the first night after parting with willoughby . but the feelings which made such composure a disgrace, left her in no danger of incurring it . she was awake the whole night, and she wept the greatest part of it: giving pain every moment to her mother and sisters . "i believe you are right, my love; it will be better that there should be no animuity in the case; whatever i may give them occasionally will be of far greater assistance than a yearly allowance" "a present of fifty pounds, now and then, will prevent their ever being distressed for money, and will, i think, be amply discharging my promise to my father." "money can only give happiness where there is nothing else to give it," said marianne, "beyond a competence, it can afford no real satisfaction, as far as mere self is concerned." the fortune, which had been so tardy in coming, was his only one twelvemonth . ten thousand pounds, including the late legacies, was all that remained for his widow and daughters . his son was sent for as soon as his danger was known, and to him he recommended the interest of his mother-in-law and sisters . "to give such intelligence to a person who could not be interested in it, even if it were true, is not what i should expect Colonel Brandon to do." "you have been long acquainted with colonel Brandon, have not you?" "did not colonel Brandon know of sir Johns proposal to your mother before it was made? had he never owned his affection to yourself?" "he was four years with my uncle, who lives at longstable, near Plymouth" "i was very unwilling to enter into it without the knowledge and approbation of his mother" "though you do not know him so well, you must have seen enough to be sensible he is very capable of making a woman sincerely attached to him." "i begged him to exert himself for fear you should suspect what was the matter" "i heard from him just before i left Exeter;" taking a letter from her pocket . "he was tired, i dare say, for he had just filled the sheet to me as full as possible." "it would be madness to marry upon that, though for my own part, i could give up every prospect of more without a sigh." "i love him too well to be the selfish means of robbing him, perhaps, of all that his mother might give him if he married to please her." "it will not be in my power to accept their invitation if they do." "i have a notion," said sir John, "that miss marianne would not object to such a scheme, if her elder sister would come into it." "i would advise you two, to set off for town, when you are tired of barton, without saying a word to miss dashwood about it." the middletons were to follow in about a week . the miss steels kept their station at the park . if she DID, the letter was written and sent away with a privacy which eluded all her watchfulness to ascertain the fact . but while she saw Marianne in spirits, she could not be very uncomfortable herself . "i am much concerned to find there was anything in my behaviour last night that did not meet your approbation, and i entreat your forgiveness of what i can assure you to have been perfectly unintentional." "my esteem for your whole family is very sincere; but if i have been so unfortunate as to give rise to a belief of more than i felt, or meant, i shall reproach myself for not having been more guarded." "i could rather believe every creature . acquaintance leagued together to ruin me in his opinion, than . believe his nature capable of such cruelty" "is there a creature in the world whom i would not rather suspect of evil than willoughby?" "when a young man, be he who he will, comes and makes love to a pretty girl, and promises marriage, he has no business to fly off from his word" "why don't he, in such a case, sell his horses, let his house, turn off his servants, and make a thorough reform at once?" "it would be unnecessary for you to caution Mrs. Palmer and sir John against ever naming Mr. willoughby, or making the slightest allusion to what has passed, before my sister." "their attention to our comfort, their friendliness in every particular, is more than i can express." "she is not well, she has had a nervous complaint on her for several weeks." "could anything be so flattering as Mrs. ferrars way of treating me yesterday? so exceedingly affable as she was!—you know how i dreaded the thoughts of seeing her—but the very moment i was introduced, such an affinity in her behaviour as really should seem to say, she had quite taken a fancy to me." her late conversation with her daughter-in-law had made her resolve on remaining at norland no longer than was unavoidable . to separate Edward and Elinor was as far from being her object as ever; and she wished to show Mrs. John dashwood how totally she disregarded her disapproval of the match . "my love i would ask them with all my heart, if it was in my power, but i had just settled within myself to ask the miss steels to spend a few days with us." "i am sure you will like them; indeed, you DO like them, you know very much already, and so does my mother; and they are such favourites with Harry!" "we all know how THAT will end—they will wait a twelvemonth, and finding no good comes, will set down upon a curacy of fifty pounds a-year" "i must see what i can give them towards furnishing their house, two maids and two men, indeed—as i talked of tother day." "this little rectory CAN do no more than make mr. ferrars comfortable as a bachelor; it cannot enable him to marry." "what i am now doing indeed, seems nothing at all, since it can advance him so little towards what must be his principal, his only object of happiness." "Upon my soul it is,"—was his answer, with a warmth which brought all the former willoughby to her remembrance . "If that is all, you may be satisfied already,—for Marianne DOES—she has LONG forgiven you," he cried, in the same eager tone. "Then she has forgiven me before she ought to have done it." "your wife!—the letter was in your own hand-writing." "i will tell her all that is necessary to what may comparatively be called, your justification" "you have not explained to me the particular reason of your coming now" "No—to Combe Magna. i have business there; from thence to town in a day or two." "to judge from the colonels spirits, however, you have not yet made him equally sanguine." "his age is only so much beyond hers as to make his character and principles fixed;—and his disposition, i am well convinced, is exactly the very one to make your sister happy" "my partiality does not blind me; certainly is not so handsome as willoughby—but at the same time, there is something much more pleasing in his countenance." "when do you write to Colonel Brandon, ma'am?" was an inquiry which sprung from her mind to have something going on . "i wrote to him, my love, last week, and rather expect to see, than to hear from him again." "do you call Colonel Brandon infirm?" asked Elinor . "you can hardly deceive yourself as to his having the use of his limbs!" "at this rate you must be in continual terror of MY decay," said her mother . "being very sure I have long lost your affections, i have thought myself at liberty to bestow my own on another, and have no doubt of being as happy with him as i once used to think I might be with you" "i scorn to accept a hand while the heart was another, and it shall not be my fault if we are not always good friends, as our near relationship now makes proper" "your brother has gained my affections entirely, and as we could not live without one another, we are "i have burnt all your letters, and will return your picture the first opportunity" "please to destroy my scrawls—but the ring with my hair you are very welcome to keep" "worlds would not I have had a letter of hers seen by YOU in former days," said Edward . "how could i suppose, when she so earnestly, so warmly insisted on sharing my fate that any thing but the most disinterested affection was her inducement?" "i cannot comprehend on what motive she acted, or what fancied advantage it could be to her, to be fettered to a man for whom she had not the smallest regard"

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Table 11: Examples of decoded summaries of the full text of "Sense and Sensibility", part 3.

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**Model Output: PEGASUS fine-tuned**

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Margaret, the other sister, is a good-humored, well-disposed girl; but as she had already imbibed a good deal of Marianne's romance, without having much of her sense, she does not, at thirteen, bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life. The Dashwoods are now settled at Barton with tolerable comfort to themselves. The house and the garden, with all the objects surrounding them, are now become familiar. Miss Dashwood has a delicate complexion, regular features, and a remarkably pretty figure. Her form, though not so correct as her sisters, in having the advantage of height, was more striking; and her face was so lovely, that when in the common cant of praise, she was called a beautiful girl, truth was less violently outraged than usually happens. Mrs. John Dashwood does not approve of what her husband intends to do for his sisters. To take three thousand pounds from the fortune of their dear little boy would be impoverishing him to the most dreadful degree. When he is present, she has no eyes for any one else. One evening in particular, about a week after Colonel Brandon left the country, his heart seemed more than usually open to every feeling of attachment to the objects around him. Mrs. Dashwood assures him that no alteration of the kind should be attempted. On their return from the park they find Willoughby's servant waiting at the cottage, and Mrs. Dashwood is convinced that her conjecture had been just. So far it is all as she had foreseen; but on entering the house she beheld what no foresight had taught her to expect. They were no sooner in the passage than Marianne came hastily out of the parlour apparently in violent affliction, with her handkerchief in her eyes; and without noticing them ran up stairs. Surprised and alarmed they proceeded directly into the room she had just quitted, where they found only Willoughby, who was leaning against the mantel-piece with his back towards them. When breakfast is over, she walks out by herself, and wanders about the village of Allenham, indulging the recollection of past enjoyment and crying over the present reverse. She plays over every favourite song that she had been used to play to Willoughby, every air in which their voices had been oftenest joined, and sits at the instrument gazing on every line of music that he had written out for her. Mrs. Dashwood tells him that he would be a happier man if he had any profession to engage his time and give an interest to his plans and actions. Charlotte laughs heartily to think that her husband could not get rid of her; and exultingly says, she does not care how cross he was to her, as they must live together. She tells him that there is a new family coming to Barton cottage, and that one of them is going to be married to Mr. Willoughby of Combe Magna. Edward Ferrars is the eldest son of a man who had died very rich; and some might have repressed it from motives of prudence, for, except a trifling sum, the whole of his fortune depended on the will of his mother. The Palmers return to Cleveland the next day, and the two families at Barton are again left to entertain each other. Edward Ferrars is not handsome, and his manners required intimacy to make them pleasing. He was too diffident to do justice to himself; but when his natural shyness was overcome, his behaviour gave every indication of an open, affectionate heart. Lady Middleton proposes a rubber of Casino to the others. No one makes any objection but Marianne, who with her usual inattention to the forms of general civility, exclaimed, "Your Ladyship will have the goodness to excuse ME—you know I detest cards!" He has only two thousand pounds of his own; it would be madness to marry upon that, though for my own part, I could give up every prospect of more without a sigh. The house is handsome, and handsomely fitted up, and the young ladies are immediately put in possession of a very comfortable apartment. Mrs. Palmer and two elderly ladies of Mrs. Jennings' acquaintance, whom she had met and invited in the morning, dine with them. The Miss Dashwoods have no greater reason to be dissatisfied with Mrs. Jennings' style of living, and set of acquaintance, than with her behavior to themselves, which is invariably kind. He does not draw himself, but he has great pleasure in seeing the performances of other people, and he is by no means deficient in natural taste, though he has not had opportunities of improving it. They arrive at the place of destination, and as soon as the string of carriages before them is allowed, alighted, ascended the stairs, heard their names announced from one landing-place to another in an audible voice, and entered a room splendidly lit up, quite full of company, and insufferably hot. It was nearly three years after this unhappy period before she returned to England. Her legal allowance was not adequate to her fortune, nor sufficient for her comfortable maintenance, and I learn from my brother that the power of receiving it had been made over some months before to another person. He imagined, and calmly could he imagine it, that her extravagance, and consequent distress, had her obliged to dispose of it for some immediate relief. The Willoughbys leave town as soon as they are married; and Elinor now hopes, as there could be no danger of her seeing either of them, to prevail on her sister, who had never yet left the house since the blow first fell. She is not well, she has had a nervous complaint for several weeks. Mrs. Ferrars is a little, thin woman, upright, and serious, even to sourness, in her aspect. Her complexion was sallow; and her features small, without beauty, and naturally without expression; but a lucky contraction of the brow had rescued her countenance from the disgrace of insipidity, by giving it the strong characters of pride and ill nature. The dinner is grand, the servants are numerous, and every thing bespoke the Mistress' inclination for show, and the Master's ability to support it. Edward tries to return her kindness as it deserves, but before such witnesses she dared not say half what he really felt. Again they all sat down, and for a moment or two all were silent; while Marianne was looking with the most speaking tenderness, sometimes at Edward and sometimes at Elinor, regretting only that their delight in each other should be checked by Lucy's unwelcome presence. The sight of him is the only comfort it has afforded; and thank Heaven you are what you always were. Elinor agrees to it all, for she does not think he deserves the compliment of rational opposition. When Lucy first came to Barton Park last November, she told her in confidence of her engagement. Mrs. Jennings is very warm in her praise of Edward, but only Elinor and Marianne understand its true merit. They only knew how little he had had to tempt him to be disobedient, and how small was the consolation, beyond the consciousness of doing right, that could remain to him in the loss of friends and fortune. The time is now drawing on, when Colonel Brandon might be expected back. At ten o'clock, she trusted or at least not much later her mother would be relieved from the dreadful suspense that she must now be travelling towards them. Sir John's satisfaction in society is much more real; he delighted in collecting about him more young people than his house would hold, and the noisier they were the better was he pleased. The arrival of a new family in the country is always a matter of joy to him, and in every point of view he is charmed with the inhabitants he has now procured for his cottage at Barton. He feels that she is infinitely dearer to him than any other woman in the world, and that he is using her infamously. Mrs. Jennings, Lady Middleton's mother, is a "good-humoured, merry, fat, elderly woman, who talked a great deal, seemed very happy, and rather vulgar." He says that he must rub through the world as well as he can. Domestic happiness is out of the question. If, however, I am allowed to think that you and yours feel an interest in my fate and actions, it may put me on my guard—it may be something to live for. She feels that his influence over her mind is heightened by circumstances which ought not in reason to have weight; by that person of uncommon attraction, that open, affectionate, and lively manner which it was no merit to possess; and by that still ardent love for Marianne. They will soon be back, and then they'd be sure and call here. He is now open to Elinor, all its weaknesses, and his first boyish attachment to Lucy treated with all the philosophic dignity of twenty-four. She will be more hurt by it, for Robert always was her favourite. Edward is convinced that nothing could have been more natural than Lucy's conduct, nor more self-evident than the motive of it. It would be needless to say, that the gentlemen advanced in the good opinion of each other; as they advanced in each other's acquaintance, for it could not have been otherwise. Their resemblance in good principles and good sense, in disposition and manner of thinking, would probably have been sufficient to unite them in friendship, without any other attraction; but their being in love with two sisters, and two sisters fond of one another, made that mutual regard inevitable and immediate, which might otherwise have waited the effect of time and judgment. The first month after their marriage is spent with their friend at the Mansion-house; from whence they could superintend the progress of the Parsonage, and direct every thing as they liked on the spot. She was born to overcome an affection formed so late in life as at seventeen, and with no sentiment superior to strong esteem and lively friendship, voluntarily to give her hand to another. It would be a compact of convenience, and the world would be satisfied.

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**Model Output: PEGASUS zero-shot**

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"Aye, aye, I see how it will be," said Sir John, "and never think of poor Brandon." "Setting one's cap at a man," said Sir John, "is the most odious of all." "I have found him capable of giving me much information on various subjects; and he has always answered my inquiries with readiness of good-breeding and good nature." "Miss Dashwood," cried Willoughby, "you are now using me unkindly." After a short pause he resumed the conversation by saying,—"Does your sister make no distinction in her objections against a second attachment?" A party was formed this evening for going on the following day to see a very fine place about twelve miles from Barton, belonging to a brother-in-law of Colonel Brandon, without whose interest it could not be seen, as the proprietor, who was then abroad, had left strict orders on that head. Colonel Brandon's horses were announced. "I have thought it all over, and I can perfectly account for every thing at first seemed strange to me as well as to you." "Nothing, for you have anticipated my answer." Edwards hand passed so directly before her, as to make a ring, with a plait of hair in the centre, very conspicuous on one of his fingers. "I am so glad to see you," said Elinor, "for it is so bad a day I was afraid you might not come, which would be a shocking thing, as we go away again tomorrow." "Lord," cried Anne, "you can talk of nothing but beaux;—you will make Miss Dashwood believe you think of nothing else." As she said this, she looked earnestly at Lucy, hoping to discover something in her countenance; perhaps the falsehood of what she had been saying; but Lucy's countenance suffered no change. "Did you know?" "You know his hand, I dare say, a charming one it is; but that is not written so well as usual." "Would you advise me to put an end to my engagement with Edward Ferrars?" Marianne's joy was almost a degree beyond happiness, so great was the perturbation of her spirits and her impatience to be gone. Marianne's eagerness to be gone declared her dependence on finding him there; and Elinor was resolved not only upon gaining every new light as to his character which her own observation or the intelligence of others could give her, but likewise upon watching his behaviour to her sister with such zealous attention, as to ascertain what he was and what he meant, before many meetings had taken place. "Nay, Elinor, this reprouch from YOU—you who have confidence in no one!" "Miss Dashwood, I believe I have been wrong in saying so much, but I hardly know what to do, and on your prudence I have the strongest dependence." Marianne's letter to John Willoughby. "When you tell me to love him as a brother, I shall no more see imperfection in his face, than I now do in his heart." In the drawing-room, whither she then repaired, she was soon joined by Mrs. Jennings, with a wine-glass, full of something, in her hand. "Excuse me," said Elinor, "I meant no offence to you, by speaking, in so quiet a way, of my own feelings. "Have you ever met him?" She was a woman of few words; for, unlike people in general, she proportioned them to the number of her ideas; and of the few syllables that did escape her, not one fell to the share of Miss Dashwood. "Lord! says I, is Mrs. Dashwood ill?" Marianne's letter to Edward. "I am so glad to meet you," said Miss Steele, taking her familiarly by the arm—"for I wanted to see you of all things in the world." "Betty's sister would never do for them NOW." "I never was better pleased in my life, and I wish you joy of it with my heart." The arrival of a new family in the country was always a matter of joy to him, and in every point of view he was charmed with the inhabitants he had now procured for his cottage at Barton. Watched us out of the house!" Lady Middleton's mother arrived at Barton Park within the last hour, and was perfectly satisfied with having two entire strangers of the party, and wished for no more. "I will tell her all that is necessary to what may comparatively be called, your justification." "Are you going back to town?" "No—to Combe Magna." "And she will be gained by some one else. "No.—He thinks Marianne's affection too deeply rooted for any change in it under a great length of time, and even supposing her heart again free, is too diffident of himself to believe, that with such a difference of age and disposition he could ever attach her." Marianne said no more. "Selfish?" "But did she tell you she was married, Thomas?" A pause. "She will be more hurt by it, for Robert always was her favourite." "I was wrong in remaining so much in Sussex, and the arguments with which I reconciled myself to the expediency of it, were no better than these:—the danger is my own; I am doing no injury to anybody but myself." Elinor's marriage divided her as little from her family as possible, without rendering the cottage at Barton entirely useless, for her mother and sisters spent much more than half their time with her. Marianne Dashwood was born to discover the falsehood of her own opinions, and to counteract, by her conduct, her most favourite maxims. "I have never mentioned it to her, but of course she must."

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Table 12: Examples of decoded summaries of the full text of "Sense and Sensibility", part 4.

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