

# Improving Your Reading with Summarising Sheba: Charlie Brooke



To be generally helpful was one of the chief points in the character of Charlie Brooke. At the village school, he reigned in the playground. He excelled at football, cricket, gymnastics, and swimming because of his great physical strength. Charlie's school-fellows almost worshipped him and he was always so willing to help and lead them in all cases of danger or emergency, so much so that "Charlie to the rescue!" became quite a familiar cry on the playground. Charlie never seemed to be as happy as when he was assisting someone else.



By the time that Charlie left school, he had the shoulders of Samson, the chest of Hercules and the limbs of Apollo. He was over six feet tall but his unusual breadth deceived people until they stood close to him. Charlie had curly, fair hair and bright blue eyes, with a seemingly permanent look of compassion on his face.

1. Which of the following statements best summarises Charlie Brooke? Tick **one**.

- a professional athlete with many friends
- a mythical figure akin to Hercules
- a compassionate and athletic schoolmate
- a teacher at the local village school

2. The chapter this extract is taken from is called 'Charlie Brooke'. Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for this chapter.

---

3. Summarise the impression readers are given about Charlie in 20 words or less.

---

---

4. Number the following summaries from 1-5 to show the order in which they appear. The first one has been done for you.

- He was fair haired with blue eyes.
- He was always willing to help and lead others.
- Charlie was tall and muscular by the time he left school.
- He excelled at many sports because of his strength.
- 1 Charlie Brooke was generally helpful.



# Answers

1. Which of the following statements best summarises Charlie Brooke? Tick **one**.

- a professional athlete with many friends
- a mythical figure akin to Hercules
- a compassionate and athletic schoolmate**
- a teacher at the local village school

2. The chapter this extract is taken from is called 'Charlie Brooke'. Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for this chapter.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Introducing Charlie**

3. Summarise the impression readers are given about Charlie in 20 words or less.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Readers know that Charlie is a sporty, helpful and muscular boy from the village school who has many friends.**

4. Number the following summaries from 1-5 to show the order in which they appear. The first one has been done for you.

- 5** He was fair haired with blue eyes.
- 3** He was always willing to help and lead others.
- 4** Charlie was tall and muscular by the time he left school.
- 2** He excelled at many sports because of his strength.
- 1** Charlie Brooke was generally helpful.

# Improving Your Reading with Summarising Sheba: In Paris



John Scott and Arnaud Dubois walked together down a great boulevard of Paris. The young American's heart was filled with grief and anger. The Frenchman felt the same grief but also a fierce, burning rage best described as a fury. Both had heard the sound of cannons on the horizon that morning and they knew the German conquerors were advancing. They were always advancing. Nothing had stopped them. The metal and stone of the defences had crumbled before their huge guns like china breaking under a stone.

Less than one month later, the legions were already invading the City of Light.

A sea of grey uniforms could be seen from the top of the Eiffel Tower as they approached the city. It seemed that everything was lost before the war was fairly begun. John could feel the weight of the enemy's presence pressing upon him, giving him no time to breathe.



1. Which of the following statements best summarises the first paragraph? Tick **one**.

- Soldiers were filled with fear at the sound of cannons.
- John and Arnaud were furious with the impending invasion.
- Metal and stonework collapsed due to cannon fire.
- The invasion into Paris by the Germans had occurred.

2. The chapter this extract is taken from is called In Paris. Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for this chapter.

---



3. Summarise the second paragraph in 20 words or less.

---

---

4. Number the following summaries from 1-5 to show the order in which they appear. The first one has been done for you.

- 1 John and Arnaud walked together down the boulevard.
- A recap is given of the previous damage caused by the German army.
- Both men felt anger and grief over the impending invasion.
- Invading soldiers in grey uniforms are observed from the Eiffel Tower.
- Legions invade Paris less than one month later.



# Answers

1. Which of the following statements best summarises the first paragraph? Tick **one**.

- Soldiers were filled with fear at the sound of cannons.
- John and Arnaud were furious with the impending invasion.**
- Metal and stonework collapsed due to cannon fire.
- The invasion into Paris by the Germans had occurred.

2. The chapter this extract is taken from is called In Paris. Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for this chapter.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: City at War**

3. Summarise the second paragraph in 20 words or less.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: John felt the pressure of the enemy invading Paris. Their grey uniforms could be seen from the Eiffel Tower.**

4. Number the following summaries from 1-5 to show the order in which they appear. The first one has been done for you.

- 1** John and Arnaud walked together down the boulevard.
- 3** A recap is given of the previous damage caused by the German army.
- 2** Both men felt anger and grief over the impending invasion.
- 5** Invading soldiers in grey uniforms are observed from the Eiffel Tower.
- 4** Legions invade Paris less than one month later.

# Improving Your Reading with Summarising Sheba: Raider's Peril



Catanna ran through the darkness of the White Desert night. She rarely ventured to the Silken City, and never alone. Despite its soft-sounding name, it was a cut-throat place.

Katka's thumb ached from pressing the forward button as hard as she could. It wouldn't make Catanna move any faster – Katka knew that – but her thumbs wouldn't listen to reason right now. She had to find Xandon and discover what the Gutvines were up to, before they tricked her into destroying her own guild.

The hazy light of the distant city grew brighter by degrees. Catanna didn't look to the left or right; she just ran – over dunes, through tented encampments, under the shadows of enemy strongholds. She even splashed through an oasis without swerving; her eyes never left that hazy light.

That was how the bandits got her.

Suddenly, flaming arrows rained down from the sky. Her vision flashed red and she staggered as her health bar dropped.

She'd been hit. Unfamiliar voices jumbled on her headset.

“Taste it!”

“One more hit.”

“Grab the bag.”

Too late, Catanna readied

her spear. But Katka couldn't see who to aim at, and the spear flew, glittering, into the night, landing uselessly in the sand ahead. Catanna tried to follow it, but she was knocked to the ground by another blow. Her health was critical.



"She's out."

"Taste it!"

"Shut up and search the bag."

"Topaz, nice."

"Who uses spears anyway?"

All Katka could see was black. She pressed every button on the controller, but Catanna just lay there, her health bar blinking a warning. She was helpless as her lootbag was snatched away and the unseen assailants emptied its contents and flung it onto the sand. She heard every thud as they ran away across the desert.

Eventually, her health bar climbed above the danger zone and stopped blinking. Katka let out a breath that she didn't know she'd been holding. Catanna stood, picked up her lootbag, and looked at the contents. Just some useless armour, precision gloves, and something called an ice cloak.

Great.

Catanna shouldered the bag. All that Gutvine loot, gone in seconds because of Katka's own stupidity. Fantastic.

Catanna limped in circles, searching for her topaz spear. She remembered the exact spot it had landed in, but it wasn't there. The further that Catanna limped, the deeper her heart sank until it dropped right into her stomach. Her spear was gone.

Katka flopped back on her cool pillows. She stared at the ceiling, at the crack that wriggled across it like a road on a map. She was the leader of the Brittlestar guild; despair was not an option. She had to find Xandon and get back what she had lost. With a sigh, she sat upright.

Catanna joined a crowd of raiders, merchants and warriors as she limped closer to the Silken City gates. Guards stood on either side, their formidable weapons ready in case of trouble. Catanna stayed to the middle of the crowd, who jostled and slowed as they reached the



bottleneck.

As the bustling chatter and hanging silks of the city came into focus, Catanna was snatched to the side by a guard. The guard's animated face loomed down at Catanna, grinning. His teeth were black.

1. Number the following props 1-5 to show the order in which they first appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- cool pillows
- Catanna's lootbag
- precision gloves
- 1 flaming arrows
- Catanna's spear

2. Summarise what happens in the first three paragraphs in **one sentence**.

---

---

3. Look at the section of text which begins with *That was how the bandits got her* and ends with *She's out*. Summarise what happens to Catanna in 20 words or less.

---

---

---

---

4. What sticks in your mind the most about the character of Catanna?

---

---

5. Explain the role of the guard in this extract using 20 words or less.

---



---



---



---

6. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
Catanna's journey was between the Silken City and the Brittlestar Guild.		
Xandon and Gutvines captured Catanna.		
The contents of Catanna's lootbag was stolen by bandits.		
Catanna approached the Silken City and tried to enter alone.		

7. Highlight ten words from this extract. Using the ten words you picked out, write a paragraph explaining what happens in this chapter.

---



---



---



---



---

8. This chapter is called Silken City. Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for the chapter.

---

9. Write a blurb for this chapter using 30 words or less.

---

---

---

---

10. Below are some summaries of different paragraphs from this text. Number them 1-5 to show the order in which they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you..

- Catanna lay helpless and Katka couldn't assist.
- 1 Katka tried in vain to make Catanna move faster.
- Katka flopped onto her bed with disappointment.
- Catanna examined the remaining contents of her lootbag.
- Catanna prepared to fight but was injured.

# Answers

1. Number the following props 1-5 to show the order in which they first appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- 5 cool pillows  
 3 Catanna's lootbag  
 4 precision gloves  
 1 flaming arrows  
 2 Catanna's spear

2. Summarise what happens in the first three paragraphs in **one sentence**.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: Catanna ran through the White Desert towards the Silken City in search of Xandon.**
3. Look at the section of text which begins with *That was how the bandits got her* and ends with *She's out*. Summarise what happens to Catanna in 20 words or less.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: Catanna's health is damaged and she is knocked to the ground by arrows fired by bandits.**
4. What sticks in your mind the most about the character of Catanna?  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: Catanna's determination sticks in my mind because she never gives up, despite the danger she faces.**
5. Explain the role of the guard in this extract using 20 words or less.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: The guard snatches Catanna to the side as she attempts to enter the Silken City.**
6. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
Catanna's journey was between the Silken City and the Brittlestar Guild.		
Xandon and Gutvines captured Catanna.		
The contents of Catanna's lootbag was stolen by bandits.		
Catanna approached the Silken City and tried to enter alone.		



# Answers

7. Highlight ten words from this extract. Using the ten words you picked out, write a paragraph explaining what happens in this chapter.

**Pupils' own responses dependent upon the ten words they choose from the extract.**

8. This chapter is called **Silken City**. Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for the chapter.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The Dangerous Journey**

9. Write a blurb for this chapter using 30 words or less.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Katka watches helplessly as Catanna's loot is raided by bandits. As she reaches the Silken City, will guards ruin her search for Xandon?**

10. Below are some summaries of different paragraphs from this text. Number them 1-5 to show the order in which they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you..

- 3** Catanna lay helpless and Katka couldn't assist.
- 1** Katka tried in vain to make Catanna move faster.
- 5** Katka flopped onto her bed with disappointment.
- 4** Catanna examined the remaining contents of her lootbag.
- 2** Catanna prepared to fight but was injured.



Improving Your Reading Skills with...

# Summarising Sheba



# What Does **Summarising Sheba** Do?

Summarising Sheba helps with the following Australian Curriculum content descriptors:

**ACELY1703** - Use comprehension strategies to analyse information, integrating and linking ideas from a variety of print and digital sources. **(Year 5)**

**ACELY1713** - Use comprehension strategies to interpret and analyse information and ideas, comparing content from a variety of textual sources including media and digital texts. **(Year 6)**

This means that she is there to help you **sum up** what you've read. She helps you to do this by reading the text, **picking out the key points** that are really important and giving a quick rundown of the text's main ideas.

Imagine that you've read a book and have to message your friend about the plot – which key messages would you tell them and which would you leave out?

# When Have We Seen Summarising Sheba?

The kind of questions that Summarising Sheba helps with only usually appear a couple of times in NAPLAN texts. Here are some examples:

**33** Below are some summaries of different paragraphs from this text.  
Number them 1 – 6 to show the order in which they appear in the text.  
The first one has been done for you.

- An important lesson is learnt.
- Reasons for the extinction of the dodo.
- Summary of the plight of the dodos.  1
- New information is discovered about the dodo.
- An explanation for the unreliable evidence.
- Humans arrived on Mauritius.

1 mark

**27** Which of the following would be the most suitable summary of the whole text?

Tick one.

- The Life of David Walliams
- A Sporting Challenge
- Sailing the Channel
- Training for Survival

1 mark

**24** What is the main message of the poem?

Tick one.

- People can learn a lot from holding small creatures.
- People should think about how their actions affect others.
- People are much bigger than frogs and snails.
- People should overcome their fear of nature.

1 mark

**34** Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Lord John saw the dinosaur tracks first.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professor Summerlee has faked the evidence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professor Challenger worries that people won't believe them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
They are all frightened of the iguanodons.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 mark





Back

# What Might Summarising Sheba Ask?

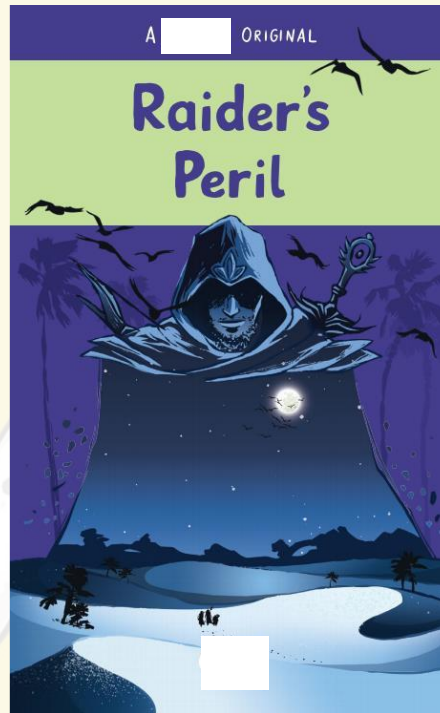
Summarising Sheba might ask questions like these:

- What is the main theme, argument or message of this paragraph?
  - Can you describe what happened in this chapter?
  - Write a new blurb for this story using 20 words or less.
  - Can you describe what happened in three short sentences?
    - How would you sum up...?
  - What is the most important message in this book?

# Let's Explore **Summarising Sheba** Questions Together

Read the extract from Raider's Peril and answer the questions as a class.

Click on the image to read the text.



Read the rest of the Raider's Peril story

# Let's Explore Summarising Sheba Questions Together

Read the extract from Raider's Peril and answer the questions as a class.

What is the main argument in the last two paragraphs? Tick **one**.

Catanna knew that she was truly unstoppable.

Catanna wanted to equip her guild with fire opal weapons.

Catanna had found topaz gems on her last raid.

Catanna was the leader of the Brittlestar guild.

This chapter is called **Double Life**. Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for the chapter.

Sum up what Catanna did with the topaz gems in less than 10 words.

# Let's Explore Summarising Sheba Questions Together

Read the extract from Raider's Peril and answer the questions as a class.

Number the following events 1-5 to show the order in which they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

The workstation was covered with instruments.

Diamond, sunstone and fire opal are rarer than topaz.

The quartz spear glinted on the workstation.

Fire opal weapons are revered across the White Desert.

Catanna had found the gems on her last raid.

1





# Summing Up Summarising Sheba

Prove your understanding of what Summarising Sheba does by answering the following questions:

- What does Summarising Sheba help you to do?
- What sort of question might Summarising Sheba ask?
- How can you make sure you get full marks on Summarising Sheba questions?





# Improving Your Reading with Summarising Sheba: Three Friends



A canoe containing two boys and a man was moving slowly on one of the little lakes in the great northern wilderness of what is now the state of New York. The water, a brilliant blue under skies of the same intense sapphire tint, rippled away gently on either side of the boat, rising in heaps of glittering bubbles as the paddles were lifted for a new stroke. Vast masses of dense green shrubbery crowned the high banks of the lake on every side. Only the pink wildflowers just bursting into bloom gave a break from the solid emerald walls. Except for the canoe and a bird of prey, darting in a streak of silver for a fish, the surface of the water was still and silent.



The three who used the paddles were individual and unique – none of them bearing any resemblance to the other two. The man sat at the back. He was built very powerfully with large muscles. His face had been burned by long days in the sun. He was clothed in tanned deerskin adorned with many little coloured beads. A hatchet and knife were in the broad belt at his waist, and a long rifle lay at his feet.

1. Which of the following would be the most suitable new title for this extract? Tick **one**.

- Friendship
- Birds of Prey
- The Great Outdoors
- How to Canoe

2. Sum up the key message of this extract in 20 words or less.

---

---



3. Describe the man in the extract using 15 words or less.

---

---

4. Number the following summaries from 1-5 to show the order in which they appear. The first one has been done for you.

- A description of the setting is provided.
- The man's weapons are first mentioned.
- 1 The characters of the story are outlined.
- A description of the man is provided.
- The first animal of the text is introduced.



# Answers

1. Which of the following would be the most suitable new title for this extract? **Tick one.**

- Friendship
- Birds of Prey
- The Great Outdoors**
- How to Canoe

2. Sum up the key message of this extract in 20 words or less.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Three friends paddle a canoe on a silent lake which is surrounded by dense shrubbery.**

3. Describe the man in the extract using 15 words or less.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The tanned man wearing deerskin had large, powerful muscles and weapons.**

4. Number the following summaries from 1-5 to show the order in which they appear. The first one has been done for you.

- 2** A description of the setting is provided.
- 5** The man's weapons are first mentioned.
- 1** The characters of the story are outlined.
- 4** A description of the man is provided.
- 3** The first animal of the text is introduced.