

Improving Your Reading with Summarising Sheba: Charlie Brooke



Charlie Brooke was always very helpful. At the village school, he reigned in the playground. He was great at football, cricket, gymnastics and swimming because he was very strong. Charlie's school friends loved him and Charlie was always willing to help them. "Charlie to the rescue!" his friends on the playground used to say. Charlie was happiest when he was helping someone else.

By the time that Charlie left school, he was incredibly strong. He was over six feet tall and his shoulders were very wide. Charlie had curly, fair hair and bright blue eyes. He always had a kind expression on his face.



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

- a professional athlete with many friends
- someone people tried to avoid
- a kind and sporty schoolmate
- a teacher at the local village school

2. This text is taken from a chapter called 'Charlie Brooke'.

Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for this chapter.

3. Summarise the information about Charlie in 20 words or less.

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

- He had curly, fair hair.
- He was always willing to help his friends.
- Charlie was incredibly strong when he left school.
- He was great at lots of different sports.
- 1 Charlie Brooke was always helpful.



Answers

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

- a professional athlete with many friends
- someone people tried to avoid
- a kind and sporty schoolmate**
- a teacher at the local village school

2. This text is taken from a chapter 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 information about Charlie in 20 words or less.

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

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

- 5** He had curly, fair hair.
- 3** He was always willing to help his friends.
- 4** Charlie was incredibly strong when he left school.
- 2** He was great at lots of different sports.
- 1** Charlie Brooke was always helpful.



Improving Your Reading Skills with...

Summarising Sheba



What Does **Summarising Sheba** Do?

Summarising Sheba helps you to:

Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.

This means that she is there to help you to **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 run down of the text's main ideas. Imagine that you've read a book and have to text your friend about the plot – which key messages would you tell them and which would you leave out?



When Have We Seen Summarising Sheba?

You will normally see one or two Summarising Sheba questions when someone is trying to check your understanding of a text. 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?

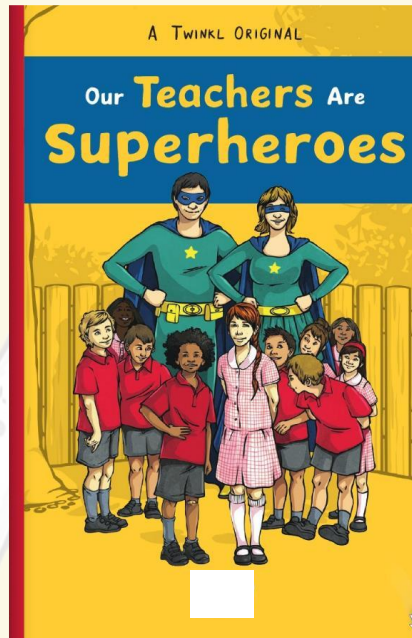
Summarising Sheba might ask questions like these:

- 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 *Our Teachers Are Superheroes* and answer the questions as a class.

Click on the image to read the text.



Let's Explore Summarising Sheba Questions Together

Read the extract from Our Teachers Are Superheroes and answer the questions as a class.

What is the main message in the first two paragraphs? Tick **one**.

- That children like superheroes.
- That Mr Jay had great enthusiasm.
- That the teachers were dressed up as superheroes.
- That the children were gathered at school.

This chapter is called **Superpowers**.

Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for the chapter.

Sum up Benji's preferred superpower in fewer than ten words.

Let's Explore Summarising Sheba Questions Together

Read the extract from Our Teachers Are Superheroes 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.

My Jay said that they had some interesting ideas.

Benji tapped Freya on the shoulder.

Someone said that they would like to be able to fly.

Freya and Benji live on the same street.

Freya called Benji annoying.

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?
- What do you think Summarising Sheba would give as her top tip?





Improving Your Reading with Summarising Sheba: In Paris



John and Arnaud walked together down a street in Paris. John's heart was filled with grief and anger. Arnaud felt the same grief but he also felt furious. Both men had heard the sound of cannons in the distance. They knew that the German soldiers were getting closer...

they were always getting closer. Nothing had stopped them. The metal and stone of the barriers had crumbled.

Less than one month later, the soldiers were already invading Paris. Lots of grey uniforms could be seen from the top of the Eiffel Tower. They were getting closer to the city. John felt as though he had no time to breathe.



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

- Soldiers were filled with fear because of the sound of cannons.
- John and Arnaud were angry about the soldiers coming.
- Metal and stone barriers had crumbled.
- Germany had already taken over Paris.

2. This text is from a chapter called In Paris.

Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for this chapter.

3. Sum up 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 street.
- The barriers had crumbled.
- Both men could hear cannons in the distance.
- Grey uniforms are getting closer to the city.
- Soldiers begin to invade Paris.



Answers

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

- Soldiers were filled with fear because of the sound of cannons.
- John and Arnaud were angry about the soldiers coming.**
- Metal and stone barriers had crumbled.
- Germany had already taken over Paris.

2. This text is from a chapter 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. Sum up the second paragraph in 20 words or less.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: John felt tense about the soldiers 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 street.
- 3** The barriers had crumbled.
- 2** Both men could hear cannons in the distance.
- 5** Grey uniforms are getting closer to the city.
- 4** Soldiers begin to invade Paris.

Improving Your Reading with Summarising Sheba: Our Teachers Are Superheroes



Despite the things they had in common, the two friends had very different appearances. Benji, with his dark, frizzy hair and skin the colour of caramel, was the shorter of the pair. Freya stood a few inches taller, with fiery red hair and freckles scattered across her nose and cheeks. Their families had been friends for years before Freya and Benji were born, and they had grown up around each other.

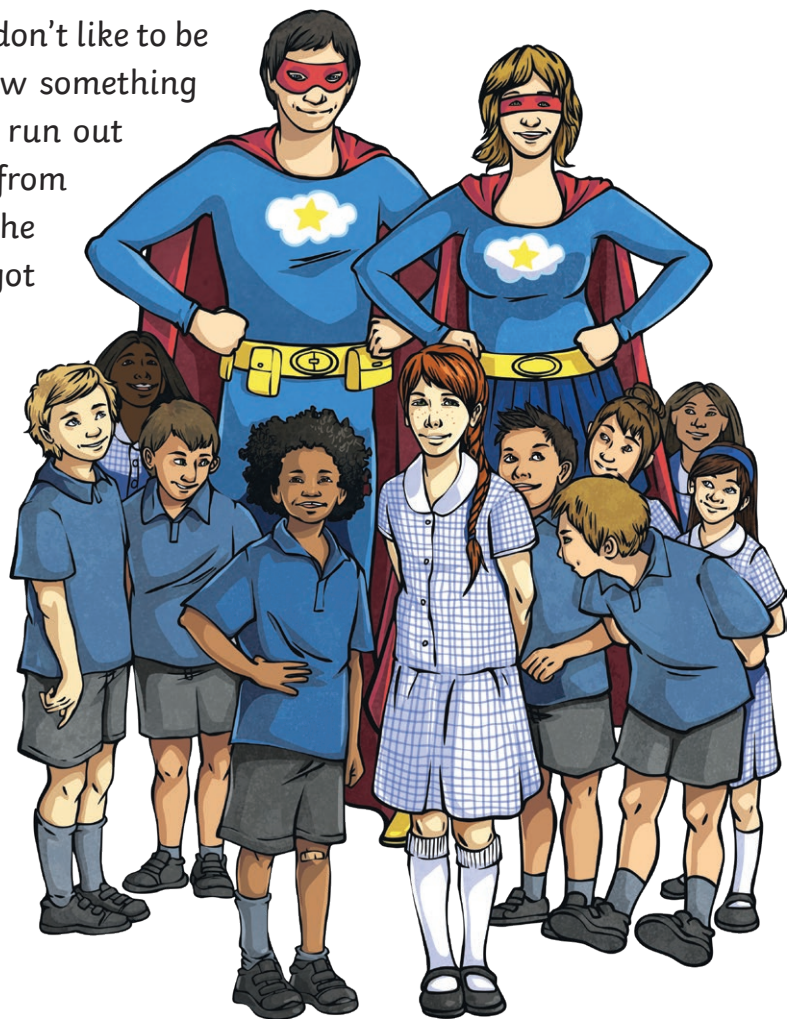
“Don’t be so ridiculous!” Freya scoffed dismissively when Benji told her about his theory while walking home that afternoon.

“Just think about it for a moment,” he beseeched her. “Wouldn’t it be amazing? Our teachers could actually be superheroes! Like some secret crime-fighting duo or something! One of them is always dashing off here or there at lunchtimes or whenever they’re not teaching us.”

“Superheroes are just for comic books,” replied Freya.

“No, they’re not!” insisted Benji. “They just don’t like to be known by their secret identities. I even saw something on the news the other day. Some guy had run out of a shop after stealing a bunch of stuff from the shelves. The shop owner had phoned the police but thought the guy had already got away. Then the news reporter said police found the thief around the corner, tied up with all the stuff he had stolen right there next to him. There was a note stuck on his chest saying: ‘Stealing isn’t cool. Don’t be a dinkus.’ It wasn’t the police who had caught him, and the thief was so confused that he said he couldn’t even remember what happened.”

“‘Don’t be a dinkus’? That’s pretty funny. But it’s hardly likely to be Mr Jay or Miss Higgins, is it?” asked Freya.



Our Teachers Are Superheroes

The next day, Freya hardly gave another thought to their conversation. Benji, on the other hand, was constantly on the lookout for clues. He kept a close watch on his teachers all morning, and he was rewarded at lunchtime: Miss Higgins received a phone call and Mr Jay gave her a friendly nod as she left.

“Your turn today!” Mr Jay said with a smile.

Both classes were combined again for the start of the afternoon while Mr Jay read the beginning of a story. The classes sat patiently, perched on tables and packed onto the carpet, and listened while they digested their lunch. After about 20 minutes, Miss Higgins returned quietly and sat at the side until they reached a suitable place to pause.

“We’ll leave it there for now,” Mr Jay decided, closing his copy of the book as they reached a place where two sections of the chapter were separated from each other by three asterisks. “Here’s a quick trivia question: does anyone know what these three asterisks are called, where we just stopped reading?”

There was a short silence, and it became clear that this question was beyond the classes’ knowledge. Eventually, Miss Higgins raised her hand with a grin.

“Well, I know you already know!” Mr Jay laughed. “Go on then, Miss Higgins.”

“It’s a dinkus!” replied the other teacher.

“Indeed it is,” said Mr Jay. “A funny old name, rarely used nowadays, but I like it!”

Amidst the mass of children, two jaws dropped open in astonishment.

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

- the shop owner
- Mr Jay
- 1 Benji
- Miss Higgins
- Freya

2. Summarise what happens in the first paragraph in one sentence.

3. Look at the paragraph which begins with “No, they’re not!” Sum up what happened in this paragraph in 20 words or less.

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

5. Explain what Benji saw at lunchtime 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
Freya has dark, frizzy hair.		
Benji thought that Freya was a superhero.		
Miss Higgins returned to class after around 20 minutes.		
Mr Jay read a magazine to the classes.		

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

8. This chapter is called **Suspicion**.

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.

- Miss Higgins received a phone call.
- 1 Freya called Benji ridiculous.
- Benji tells Freya what he saw on the news last week.
- Three asterisks are called a dinkus.
- The children perched on tables and packed onto the carpet.



Answers

- Number the following people 1-5 to show the order in which they first appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.
 - 3 the shop owner
 - 4 Mr Jay
 - 1 Benji
 - 5 Miss Higgins
 - 2 Freya
- Summarise what happens in the first paragraph in one sentence.
Pupils' own responses, such as: Despite being good friends, Benji and Freya looked very different.
- Look at the paragraph which begins with **"No, they're not!"** Sum up what happened in this paragraph in 20 words or less.
Pupils' own responses, such as: A thief is thought to have been caught by superheroes after stealing from a shop. Everyone was shocked.
- What sticks in your mind the most about the character of Benji?
Pupils' own responses, such as: The thing that sticks in my mind most about Benji is how confident he is that superheroes exist in real life.
- Explain what Benji saw at lunchtime using 20 words or less.
Pupils' own responses, such as: At lunchtime, Benji saw Miss Higgins receive a phone call and leave class.
- Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
Freya has dark, frizzy hair.		✓
Benji thought that Freya was a superhero.		✓
Miss Higgins returned to class after around 20 minutes.	✓	
Mr Jay read a magazine to the classes.		✓

Answers

7. Highlight ten words from this chapter. 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 **Suspicion**. Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for the chapter.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Benji's Idea; Miss Higgins' Call; Benji Suspects.

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: As Benji begins to suspect his teachers are superheroes, Miss Higgins says one word which changes everything. Does this mean what Benji thinks it does?

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** Miss Higgins received a phone call.
- 1** Freya called Benji ridiculous.
- 2** Benji tells Freya what he saw on the news last week.
- 5** Three asterisks are called a dinkus.
- 4** The children perched on tables and packed onto the carpet.

Improving Your Reading with Summarising Sheba: Three Friends



Two boys and a man were in a canoe. They were slowly sailing on one of the little lakes in the state of New York. The brilliant, blue water rippled gently on either side of the boat. When the paddles were lifted, the water would rise in heaps of glittering bubbles. Dense, green bushes were on the bank of the lake at each side, with little, pink wildflowers blooming. Except for the canoe and a bird catching fish, the surface of the water was still and silent.

Each of the three people in the boat looked different. 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 with many little coloured beads on it. An axe and a knife were in the broad belt at his waist and a long rifle lay at his feet.



1. Which of these would be the best new title for this extract? **Tick one.**

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

2. Sum up what you have read in 20 words or less.

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

4. Number the sentences from 1-5 to show the order in which they happen in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- A water ripples on each side of the boat.
- The man has large, powerful muscles.
- 1 The three people are in a canoe.
- A bird is trying to catch fish.
- Pink wildflowers were blooming.



Answers

1. Which of these would be the best new title for this extract? **Tick one.**

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

2. Sum up what you have read in 20 words or less.

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

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 sentences from 1-5 to show the order in which they happen in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- 2 A water ripples on each side of the boat.
- 5 The man has large, powerful muscles.
- 1 The three people are in a canoe.
- 4 A bird is trying to catch fish.
- 3 Pink wildflowers were blooming.