

Year 5 Reading Skills Sessions



Summarising

What does 'summarising' mean?

Summarising means to find the key facts or events in a text and write them in a shortened form.

It can mean finding the main idea or 'theme' of a paragraph or a page or chapter, or even an entire text!

It can also mean being able to describe what happens in a text/story/book in only a few sentences.

Writing a blurb is a type of summarising!

Some of the kinds of summarising questions you may encounter are:

Summarising Sheba might ask...

What is the main theme/argument in this paragraph?

What is the main message in this paragraph?

Can you describe what has happened in this paragraph/chapter?

Using less than 20 words, could you write a new blurb for this book..

Which is the most important message in this book?

Can you describe what happened in three sentences?

Why do you think that might be important?

Is there anything you know now which you didn't know before?

What sticks most in your mind about _____?

What moment do you remember most from _____?

Can you remind us about _____?

How would you sum up _____?



Sequencing Questions

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.
- New information is discovered about the dodo.
- An explanation for the unreliable evidence.
- Humans arrived on Mauritius.

1 mark

14 Number the following events 1–5 to show the order in which they happened.
The first one has been done for you.

- Gaby breaks the universal rule of tree climbing.
- Gaby notices the cat.
- Gaby tries to pick up the cat.
- Gaby remembers the water-balloon fight.
- Gaby takes her cardigan off.

1 mark

This type of question will give you multiple statements from or about the text.

You have to **number them** to show the order that they appear in the text.

'New Title' Questions

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

This type of question will give you phrases which could be new titles for the text you have read. Based on your understanding of the text's key points, you must choose the **most suitable new title**.

Sometimes, you may be asked to **write your own** suitable new title for the text.

'Sum up the Message' Questions

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

This type of question will give you phrases which could sum up the key message of the text. Based on your understanding of the text's key points, you must choose the **most reasonable summary**.

Sometimes, you may be asked to **write your own** summary of the text's main message, moral or viewpoint.

'True or False' Questions

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

This type of question will give you four different sentences which summarise what you have read. It will ask you to **tick** whether they are **true or false**.

Be careful: the false sentences are purposely close to real things which happen within the text.

Summarising



Chapter 1 Double Life

The quartz spear was nothing special. Plenty like it at the bazaar, for the right price. The spear's cloudy, white point lay on the workstation, next to the pestle and mortar. It glinted dully.

The workstation wasn't special either – a wooden worktop and a shelf of instruments that had never been used: hammers, pliers, chisels. On the right-hand side was a lever with a gleaming handle. Workstations just like this one were used throughout the White Desert and the Silken City to craft new weapons and armour.

Catanna Brittlestar stood before it. She pounded the

Double Life

pestle into the bowl beneath, until the substance within was ground to a fine powder. This substance was special: topaz.

Catanna had found the topaz gems in a chest on her last raid. In the gloom of a stronghold basement, she had scooped them into her sack without looking and had run before the enemy guild could capture her. It was only when she had reached the safety of the Brittlestar stronghold that she had taken the time to examine the unusual blue gems.

Topaz was rare. Not as rare as diamond, sunstone or fire opal, but rare enough to make powerful weapons. Rare enough to make Catanna and her Brittlestar guild almost unstoppable.

Almost.

Fire opal weapons would make her truly unstoppable. A guild leader who could equip her followers with fire opal weapons would be revered across the White Desert.

What she wouldn't give to be that leader.

Read the extract from 'Raider's Peril' and answer the questions on the following slide.

Summarising

1)

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.

2)

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

3)

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

Summarising

4)

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

5) What sticks in your mind most about the character of Catana?

6) Highlight 5 words from this extract. Using these words, write a paragraph to explain what happens in this chapter.

Summarising

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

Statement	True	False
<u>Catanna</u> had found the topaz gems in a case on her last raid.		
Topaz was rare enough to make powerful weapons.		
There was a lever with a gleaming handle on the workstation.		
The spear lay next to the sword on the workstation.		

Summarising ANSWERS

1)

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.

2)

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

3)

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

e.g. She took them and escaped before being caught.

Summarising ANSWERS

4)

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.

2

Diamond, sunstone and fire opal are rarer than topaz.

4

The quartz spear glinted on the workstation.

1

Fire opal weapons are revered across the White Desert.

5

Catanna had found the gems on her last raid.

3

5) What sticks in your mind most about the character of Catana?

6) Highlight 5 words from this extract. Using these words, write a paragraph to explain what happens in this chapter.

Summarising ANSWERS

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

Statement	True	False
<u>Catanna</u> had found the topaz gems in a case on her last raid.		✓
Topaz was rare enough to make powerful weapons.	✓	
There was a lever with a gleaming handle on the workstation.	✓	
The spear lay next to the sword on the workstation.		✓