

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. 1
- 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. 1
- 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

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.



Read the extract about Charlie Brooke and answer the questions on the following slides.

Summarising

1)

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)

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)

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

Summarising

4)

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.



5) What do you think the main message of the second paragraph is?

6) What sticks in your mind most about the character of Charlie?

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
People were not fooled by Charlie's breadth when they were close to him.		
Charlie had curly, fair hair and bright green eyes.		
Charlie excelled at football, cricket, tennis and swimming.		
Charlie took great pleasure helping other people.		

Summarising ANSWERS

1)

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)

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.

e.g. 'Playground Hero', 'Friend of Many'

3)

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

e.g. Charlie was skilled at many playground games, was admired by his peers and was always on hand to help them.

Summarising ANSWERS

4)

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.



5) What do you think the main message of the second paragraph is?

e.g. Charlie may have been unusually tall and muscular for his age but he still had a cheerful, kind and caring face.

6) What sticks in your mind most about the character of Charlie?

Your opinion

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
People were not fooled by Charlie's breadth when they were close to him.		✓
Charlie had curly, fair hair and bright green eyes.		✓
Charlie excelled at football, cricket, tennis and swimming.		✓
Charlie took great pleasure helping other people.	✓	