

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: 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.

Read the extract about Three Friends and answer the questions on the following slides.

Summarising

1)

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)

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

3)

3. Describe the man in the extract using 15 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.

- 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.



5) What event do you remember most from the extract?

6) How would you sum up the second paragraph?

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
The water did not match the colour of the skies.		
The three people in the canoe were very different from one another.		
Green shrubbery covered the banks of the lake on all sides.		
The man's face was suntanned from spending days in the sun.		

Summarising ANSWERS

1)

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)

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

Three friends paddle a canoe on a silent lake which is surrounded by dense shrubbery._____

3)

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

The tanned man wearing deerksin had large, powerful muscles and weapons._____

Summarising ANSWERS

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.

5) What event do you remember most from the extract?

6) How would you sum up the second paragraph?

e.g. The three people in the boat were very different from one another and the man was large and powerful and had weapons.

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
The water did not match the colour of the skies.		✓
The three people in the canoe were very different from one another.	✓	
Green shrubbery covered the banks of the lake on all sides.	✓	
The man's face was suntanned from spending days in the sun.	✓	