

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: 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.

Read the extract *In Paris* and answer the questions on the following slides.

Summarising

1)

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)

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)

3. Summarise the second paragraph 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.

- 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.



5) What sticks in your mind most from this extract?

6) What would you say is the main theme of this extract?

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 defences crumbled before the guns like china breaking under a stone.		
The young American's heart was filled with grief and loneliness.		
A sea of green uniforms could be seen from the top of the Eiffel Tower.		
The German conquerors sometimes did not advance.		

Summarising ANSWERS

1)

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)

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.

e.g. City at War

3)

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

*e.g. John felt the pressure of the enemy invading Paris.
Their grey uniforms could be seen from the Eiffel Tower.*

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.
- 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.

5) What sticks in your mind most from this extract?

6) What would you say is the main theme of this extract?

e.g. Enemy invasion of a city and the feeling of anger and hopelessness which comes with that.

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 defences crumbled before the guns like china breaking under a stone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The young American's heart was filled with grief and loneliness.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A sea of green uniforms could be seen from the top of the Eiffel Tower.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The German conquerors sometimes did not advance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>