

Improving Your Reading Skills with...

Summarising Sheba

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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?



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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

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

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

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.		
Professor Summerlee has faked the evidence.		
Professor Challenger worries that people won't believe them.		
They are all frightened of the iguanodons.		

1 mark

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The 'Number It' Questions

11. Look at pages 3–6. Write numbers in the boxes to show the order of the steps for making a treasure map.

The first one has been done for you.

drawing your map	
checking your map	
making your paper look old	1
writing directions	

1 mark

31. Put these events in the order that they happen in the story.

The first one has been done for you.

Goat sees the pansy petal.	
Jackson and Goat hide the treasure.	1
Jackson finds the paper bag.	
Goat finds the metal box.	

1 mark

This type of question will give you different sentences from or about the text.

You have to **number them** to show the order they appear or happen in.

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The '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

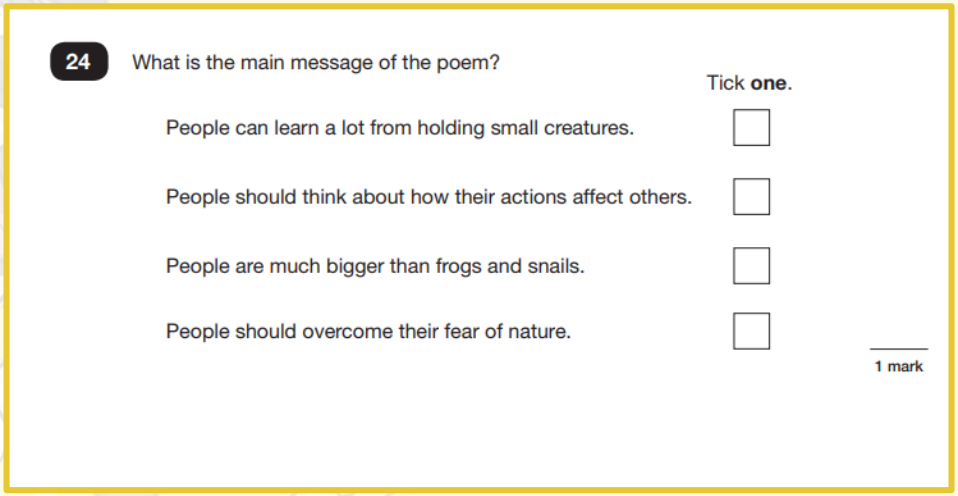
This type of question will give you phrases which could be new titles for the text you have read. You must choose the **most suitable new title**.

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

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The ‘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. You must choose the **most reasonable summary**.

Sometimes, you may be asked to **write your own** summary of the text’s main message.

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The '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.		
Professor Summerlee has faked the evidence.		
Professor Challenger worries that people won't believe them.		
They are all frightened of the iguanodons.		

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.

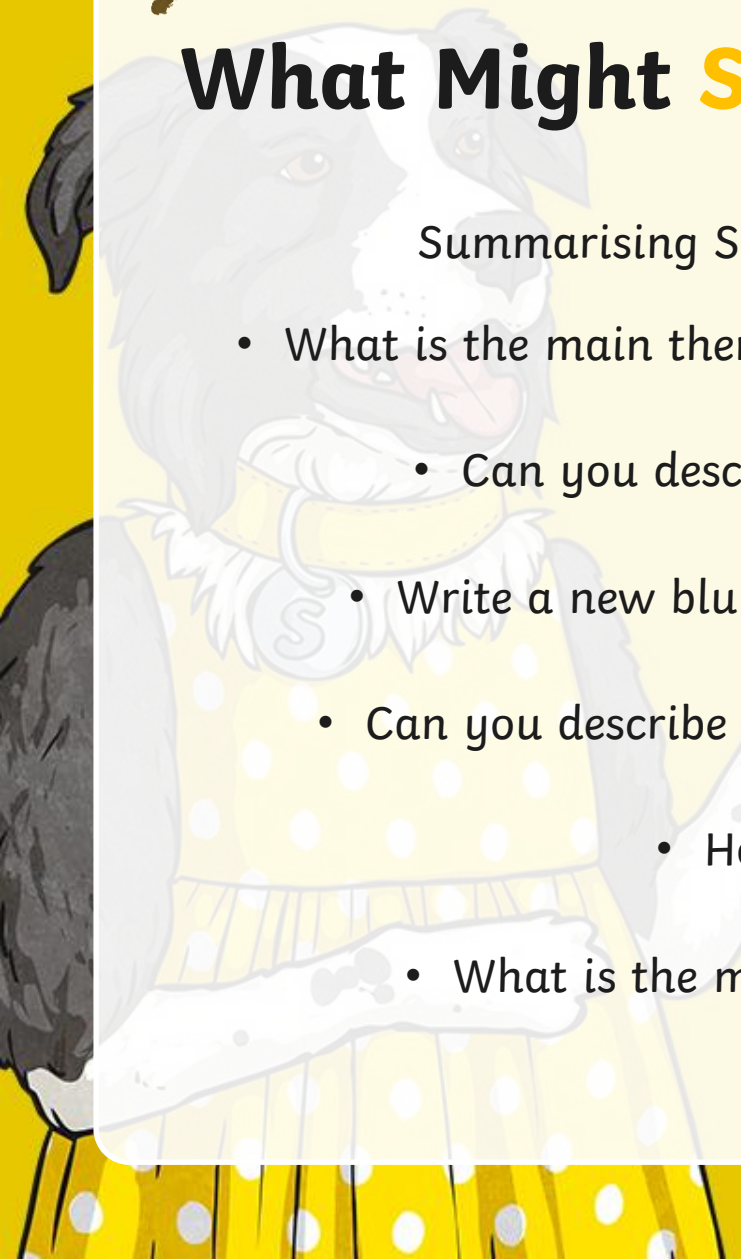
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What Might Summarising Sheba Ask?

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?

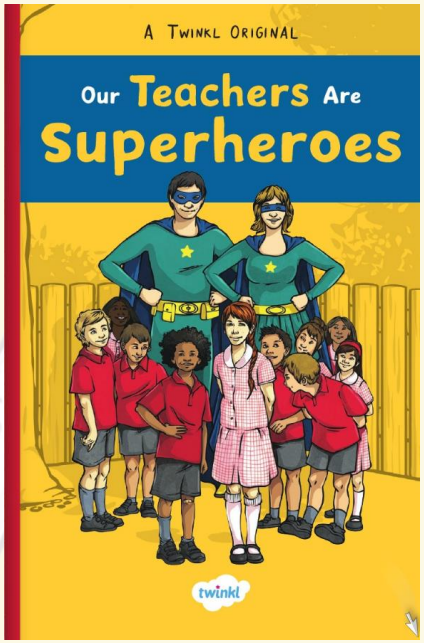


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Let's Explore Summarising Sheba Questions Together

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

The text is on the next slide.



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Chapter 1

Superpowers

"If you could have a superpower, what would it be?"

Dressed up in a brightly-coloured costume with a blue cape, Miss Higgins was posing the question to both her class and Mr Jay's as both groups of children crowded into one hot classroom together at the end of another lesson working on their 'superheroes' topic. It was a topic that had sparked great enthusiasm so far, from children and teachers alike. Mr Jay was sporting a navy cape over a teal all-in-one suit with a gadget belt, a mask and long yellow boots.

"I would definitely choose to fly!" suggested someone.

"I want to freeze time!" said another.

"I'd be invisible so I could spy on people or scare them!" laughed Benji.

"Interesting ideas," Mr Jay smiled. "Although I'm not sure that's such a kind choice, Benji. Perhaps you might think of what good your powers could be used for instead of spying and scaring people."

Benji still thought being invisible would be a rather

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funny power to have. Carefully and quietly, he reached his hand around the back of Freya and tapped her left shoulder. Instinctively, her head snapped to the left, and when she found no one there she looked back to her right to see Benji giggling.

"If I were invisible, I could do that all day and you'd have no idea who it was, even if I was standing right in front of you," he whispered.

"You can be so annoying sometimes! I'd know it was you even if I couldn't see you!" Freya retorted with a half-smile.

She was right. Benji had a mischievous streak that occasionally bordered on irritating, but the pair were good friends and always knew how to make each other laugh. They had been friends since they were toddlers, as they had always lived on the same street, often having adventures that were mainly concocted by Benji. Now, they hung around together at school even though they were in separate classes. Luckily, the two classes often paired up for topic lessons, and Benji liked to use this time to act daft with his friend.

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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.

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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.	1
Freya and Benji live on the same street.	
Freya called Benji annoying.	



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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?



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