



Improving Your Reading Skills with...

# Summarising Sheba



# 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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# What Might **Summarising Sheba** Ask?

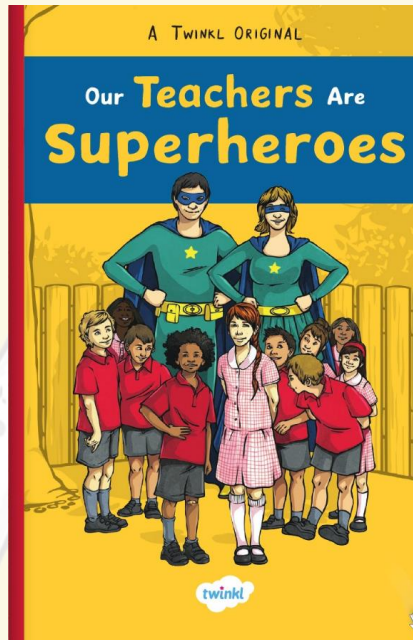
Summarising Sheba might ask questions like these:

- 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?



# Let's Explore Summarising Sheba Questions

Look at the extract from Our Teachers Are Superheroes again and think about the questions.



## 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

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.

# Think about these **Summarising Sheba** Questions

What is the main message in the first two paragraphs? Choose **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, think of a new title for the chapter.

Sum up Benji's preferred superpower in fewer than ten words.

# Think about this Summarising Sheba Question

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.

Freya and Benji live on the same street.

Freya called Benji annoying.

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