

Improving Your Reading with Summarising Sheba: Three Friends



Two boys and a man were in a canoe. They were slowly sailing on one of the little lakes in the state of New York. The brilliant, blue water rippled gently on either side of the boat. When the paddles were lifted, the water would rise in heaps of glittering bubbles. Dense, green bushes were on the bank of the lake at each side, with little, pink wildflowers blooming. Except for the canoe and a bird catching fish, the surface of the water was still and silent.

Each of the three people in the boat looked different. 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 with many little coloured beads on it. An axe and a knife were in the broad belt at his waist and a long rifle lay at his feet.



1. Which of these would be the best new title for this extract? **Tick one.**

- Friendship
- Birds of Prey
- The Great Outdoors
- How to Canoe

2. Sum up what you have read in 20 words or less.

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

4. Number the sentences from 1-5 to show the order in which they happen in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- A water ripples on each side of the boat.
- The man has large, powerful muscles.
- 1 The three people are in a canoe.
- A bird is trying to catch fish.
- Pink wildflowers were blooming.



Answers

1. Which of these would be the best new title for this extract? **Tick one.**

- Friendship
- Birds of Prey
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2. Sum up what you have read in 20 words or less.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Three friends paddle a canoe on a silent lake which is surrounded by green bushes.

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: The tanned man wearing deerskin had large, powerful muscles and weapons.

4. Number the sentences from 1-5 to show the order in which they happen in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- 2** A water ripples on each side of the boat.
- 5** The man has large, powerful muscles.
- 1** The three people are in a canoe.
- 4** A bird is trying to catch fish.
- 3** Pink wildflowers were blooming.