Improving Your Reading with Summarising Sheba:
Charlie Brooke

To be generally helpful was one of the chief points in the character of Charlie Brooke. At the village school, he reigned in the playground. He excelled at football, cricket, gymnastics, and swimming because of his great physical strength. Charlie's school-fellows almost worshipped him and he was always so willing to help and lead them in all cases of danger or emergency, so much so that "Charlie to the rescue!" became quite a familiar cry on the playground. Charlie never seemed to be as happy as when he was assisting someone else.

By the time that Charlie left school, he had the shoulders of Samson, the chest of Hercules and the limbs of Apollo. He was over six feet tall but his unusual breadth deceived people until they stood close to him. Charlie had curly, fair hair and bright blue eyes, with a seemingly permanent look of compassion on his face.

1. Which of the following statements best summarises Charlie Brooke? Tick **one**.

   - ☐ a professional athlete with many friends
   - ☐ a mythical figure akin to Hercules
   - ☐ a compassionate and athletic schoolmate
   - ☐ a teacher at the local village school

2. The chapter this extract is taken from is called 'Charlie Brooke'. Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for this chapter.

   _____

3. Summarise the impression readers are given about Charlie in 20 words or less.

_____

_____

4. Number the following summaries from 1-5 to show the order in which they appear. The first one has been done for you.

- [ ] He was fair haired with blue eyes.
- [ ] He was always willing to help and lead others.
- [ ] Charlie was tall and muscular by the time he left school.
- [ ] He excelled at many sports because of his strength.
- [1] Charlie Brooke was generally helpful.

Answers

1. Which of the following statements best summarises Charlie Brooke? Tick **one**.

   ☐ a professional athlete with many friends
   ☐ a mythical figure akin to Hercules
   a compassionate and athletic schoolmate
   ☐ a teacher at the local village school

2. The chapter this extract is taken from is called 'Charlie Brooke'. Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for this chapter.

   Pupils' own responses, such as: Introducing Charlie

3. Summarise the impression readers are given about Charlie in 20 words or less.

   Pupils' own responses, such as: Readers know that Charlie is a sporty, helpful and muscular boy from the village school who has many friends.

4. Number the following summaries from 1-5 to show the order in which they appear. The first one has been done for you.

   [5] He was fair haired with blue eyes.
   [3] He was always willing to help and lead others.
   [4] Charlie was tall and muscular by the time he left school.
   [2] He excelled at many sports because of his strength.
   [1] Charlie Brooke was generally helpful.