# Improving Your Reading with Summarising Sheba:
## Raider's Peril

Catanna ran through the darkness of the White Desert night. She rarely ventured to the Silken City, and never alone. Despite its soft-sounding name, it was a cut-throat place.

Katka's thumb ached from pressing the forward button as hard as she could. It wouldn't make Catanna move any faster – Katka knew that – but her thumbs wouldn't listen to reason right now. She had to find Xandon and discover what the Gutvines were up to, before they tricked her into destroying her own guild.

The hazy light of the distant city grew brighter by degrees. Catanna didn't look to the left or right; she just ran – over dunes, through tented encampments, under the shadows of enemy strongholds. She even splashed through an oasis without swerving; her eyes never left that hazy light.

That was how the bandits got her.

Suddenly, flaming arrows rained down from the sky. Her vision flashed red and she staggered as her health bar dropped. She'd been hit. Unfamiliar voices jumbled on her headset.

"Taste it!"

"One more hit."

"Grab the bag."

Too late, Catanna readied her spear. But Katka couldn't see who to aim at, and the spear flew, glittering, into the night, landing uselessly in the sand ahead. Catanna tried to follow it, but she was knocked to the ground by another blow. Her health was critical.

“She’s out.”

“Taste it!”

“Shut up and search the bag.”

“Topaz, nice.”

“Who uses spears anyway?”

All Katka could see was black. She pressed every button on the controller, but Catanna just lay there, her health bar blinking a warning. She was helpless as her lootbag was snatched away and the unseen assailants emptied its contents and flung it onto the sand. She heard every thud as they ran away across the desert.

Eventually, her health bar climbed above the danger zone and stopped blinking. Katka let out a breath that she didn’t know she’d been holding. Catanna stood, picked up her lootbag, and looked at the contents. Just some useless armour, precision gloves, and something called an ice cloak.

Great.

Catanna shouldered the bag. All that Gutvine loot, gone in seconds because of Katka’s own stupidity. Fantastic.

Catanna limped in circles, searching for her topaz spear. She remembered the exact spot it had landed in, but it wasn’t there. The further that Catanna limped, the deeper her heart sank until it dropped right into her stomach. Her spear was gone.

Katka flopped back on her cool pillows. She stared at the ceiling, at the crack that wriggled across it like a road on a map. She was the leader of the Brittlestar guild; despair was not an option. She had to find Xandon and get back what she had lost. With a sigh, she sat upright.

Catanna joined a crowd of raiders, merchants and warriors as she limped closer to the Silken City gates. Guards stood on either side, their formidable weapons ready in case of trouble. Catanna stayed to the middle of the crowd, who jostled and slowed as they reached the

bottleneck.

As the bustling chatter and hanging silks of the city came into focus, Catanna was snatched to the side by a guard. The guard's animated face loomed down at Catanna, grinning. His teeth were black.

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

- [ ] cool pillows
- [ ] Catanna's lootbag
- [ ] precision gloves
- [1] flaming arrows
- [ ] Catanna's spear

2. Summarise what happens in the first three paragraphs in **one sentence.**

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3. Look at the section of text which begins with *That was how the bandits got her* and ends with *She's out.* Summarise what happens to Catanna in 20 words or less.

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4. What sticks in your mind the most about the character of Catanna?

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5. Explain the role of the guard in this extract using 20 words or less.

6. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false.**

| **Statement** | **True** | **False** |
|---|---|---|
| Catanna's journey was between the Silken City and the Brittlestar Guild. | | |
| Xandon and Gutvines captured Catanna. | | |
| The contents of Catanna's lootbag was stolen by bandits. | | |
| Catanna approached the Silken City and tried to enter alone. | | |

7. Highlight ten words from this extract. Using the ten words you picked out, write a paragraph explaining what happens in this chapter.

8. This chapter is called Silken City. Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for the chapter.

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9. Write a blurb for this chapter using 30 words or less.

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10. Below are some summaries of different paragraphs from this text. Number them 1-5 to show the order in which they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you..

- [ ] Catanna lay helpless and Katka couldn't assist.
- [1] Katka tried in vain to make Catanna move faster.
- [ ] Katka flopped onto her bed with disappointment.
- [ ] Catanna examined the remaining contents of her lootbag.
- [ ] Catanna prepared to fight but was injured.

# Answers

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

   [5] cool pillows
   [3] Catanna's lootbag
   [4] precision gloves
   [1] flaming arrows
   [2] Catanna's spear

2. Summarise what happens in the first three paragraphs in **one sentence.**
   **Pupils' own responses, such as: Catanna ran through the White Desert towards the Silken City in search of Xandon.**

3. Look at the section of text which begins with *That was how the bandits got her* and ends with *She's out.* Summarise what happens to Catanna in 20 words or less.
   **Pupils' own responses, such as: Catanna's health is damaged and she is knocked to the ground by arrows fired by bandits.**

4. What sticks in your mind the most about the character of Catanna?
   **Pupils' own responses, such as: Catanna's determination sticks in my mind because she never gives up, despite the danger she faces.**

5. Explain the role of the guard in this extract using 20 words or less.
   **Pupils' own responses, such as: The guard snatches Catanna to the side as she attempts to enter the Silken City.**

6. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

| **Statement** | **True** | **False** |
|---|---|---|
| Catanna's journey was between the Silken City and the Brittlestar Guild. | | |
| Xandon and Gutvines captured Catanna. | | |
| The contents of Catanna's lootbag was stolen by bandits. | | |
| Catanna approached the Silken City and tried to enter alone. | | |

# Answers

7. Highlight ten words from this extract. Using the ten words you picked out, write a paragraph explaining what happens in this chapter.

   **Pupils' own responses dependent upon the ten words they choose from the extract.**

8. This chapter is called **Silken City**. Based on what you have read so far, write a new title for the chapter.
   **Pupils' own responses, such as: The Dangerous Journey**

9. Write a blurb for this chapter using 30 words or less.
   **Pupils' own responses, such as: Katka watches helplessly as Catanna's loot is raided by bandits. As she reaches the Silken City, will guards ruin her search for Xandon?**

10. Below are some summaries of different paragraphs from this text. Number them 1-5 to show the order in which they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you..

    **3** Catanna lay helpless and Katka couldn't assist.
    **1** Katka tried in vain to make Catanna move faster.
    **5** Katka flopped onto her bed with disappointment.
    **4** Catanna examined the remaining contents of her lootbag.
    **2** Catanna prepared to fight but was injured.