

Task for *Ubby's Underdogs*

Model character sketch: Sel

'The only thing bigger than Sel's size is his generous heart.' Author's description of Sel in 'Cast of Characters'

Comment [MM1]: Brief introduction using quote

Sel, or Selimut, is introduced at the beginning of the novel as one of the Underdogs helping Gabe retrieve his missing teeth from Gunada. He is indeed large and not as agile as the rest of the gang. Early on we see Ubby trying to haul him over a fence that the others leap with ease.

Comment [MM2]: Physical description

However, he does have a 'generous heart', evidenced by his constant support for all the Underdog gang members and his welcoming attitude towards Sai Fong. When she hesitated joining them without a Chinese escort, Sel said, 'I'm Malaysian. That's close enough.' At the end of the book, Sel is the one who tries to get Sai Fong to safety and when she becomes nervous, he reassures her with 'I'm the rhino remember. They won't get past me.' Sel's loveable and generous spirit is also recognisable by his engaging and frequent physical tussles with Gabe – often shown as background to something more important going on in the foreground.

Comment [MM3]: Mental/emotional description

Despite Sel's size and courage, he is vulnerable (incident with white girls at the Sun Pictures) and he has a strange phobia. He is terrified of black socks. This fear proves well-founded when Scotty arranges to hide a venomous King Brown snake in a sock and have it thrown at Sel.

Comment [MM4]: Interesting fact