

# Summarizing

with . . . . *Somebody-Wanted-But-So*

One of the hardest things for young children to understand is the difference between *retelling* and *summarizing*. While a *retell* is a detailed “play by play” of all the events in a story, told in sequence, a *summary* is a brief overview of the story as a whole. The Somebody-Wanted-But-So format is a great way to guide students to give a summary and NOT a retell.

Almost ALL fiction stories can be summarized with  
**Somebody-Wanted-But-So**

(This format is often ended with a “then” statement.)

***Example:***

Cinderella wanted to go to the ball, but her evil stepmother wouldn't allow her to go, so her fairy godmother showed up and used magic to give her a dress, shoes, and a carriage so she could go.

Then . . . she met the Prince, they fell in love, and lived happily ever after.

# Somebody

Who is the main character?

# Wanted

What does the character want or what is the character's goal?

# But

What is the problem in the story or what is keeping the character from his/her goal?

# So

What is the solution to the problem or how does the character reach his/her goal?

# Then...

How does the story end?

# Little Red Riding Hood



**Somebody**

Little Red Riding Hood

**Wanted**

wanted to take her Granny  
some treats...

**But**

but she met a wolf who  
tricked her by locking her  
Granny up and pretending  
to be Granny so he could  
eat her...

**So**

so Little Red got away and a  
woodcutter who was  
working nearby killed the  
wolf...

Then Little Red saved her Granny and  
they lived happily ever after....

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Somebody-Wanted-But-So

<b>Somebody</b>	
<b>Wanted</b>	
<b>But</b>	
<b>So</b>	

**Then...** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Somebody**

**Wanted**

**But**

**So**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Somebody

Wanted

But

So

Then

Somebody

Wanted

But

So