

LEARN.K20CENTER.OU.EDU/STRATEGIES

SWBST: SOMEBODY, WANTED, BUT, SO, THEN

Summary

Use this strategy during or after reading. It helps students summarize by identifying key elements: Somebody (main character/thing), Wanted (goal/motivation), But (problem/conflict), So (solution), Then (outcome/resolution).

Procedure

- Model the strategy with the whole class by reading a text or retelling a story. Have the class identify the "somebody" (or multiple main characters) and the remaining key elements from the story.
- Continue to model by reading all of the elements as a summary statement.
- Discuss with students the difference between a summary and a retelling of the story.
- 4. Have students practice this on their own by reading a selected text and working in pairs or small groups to identify the SWBST.
- 5. Have students use their SWBST to write a summary statement.
- 6. Have pairs of students work with another pair of students to compare their summary statements.
- Continue to guide students until they can use the strategy independently.

Adapted from: NBSS. (n.d.). Somebody Wanted But So: Reading and Learning Strategy. https://www.nbss.ie/sites/default/files/publications/somebody_wanted_but_so_c_0.pdf