

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

Somebody	
Wanted	
But	
So	

Then... _____

Name _____ Date _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Somebody

Wanted

But

So

Name _____ Date _____

Somebody

Wanted

But

So

Then

Somebody

Wanted

But

So