

Somebody-Wanted-But-So

'Somebody-Wanted-But-So' (SWBS) is a useful strategy to summarise a story, using the pattern:

Somebody wanted something, but there is a problem so it must be resolved.

To do this, you will need to use various elements of the story:

Somebody - Who is the main character? (Character)

Wanted - What does the character want? (Goal/Motivation)

But - What stops the character from getting what he wants? (Problem)

So - How is the problem resolved? (Resolution)

SWBS can also be used to summarise different sections of a story.

Fill in the SWBS tables below to summarise what happens in different sections of the story 'The Knock at the Door'. (Answers may vary)

Lines 2 - 6

Somebody (Character)	Wanted (Goal/Motivation)	But (Problem)	So (Resolution)
<i>Joey</i>	<i>wanted to know more about his father</i>	<i>but his mother never talked about his father</i>	<i>so he just kept quiet.</i>

Lines 10 - 22

Somebody (Character)	Wanted (Goal/Motivation)	But (Problem)	So (Resolution)
<i>Joey's mother</i>	<i>wanted to stay at home with Joey</i>	<i>but she received a phone call and had to go out</i>	<i>so she made Joey promise not to let anyone in the house and then she left him at home alone.</i>

Lines 30 - 42

Somebody (Character)	Wanted (Goal/Motivation)	But (Problem)	So (Resolution)
<i>Joey</i>	<i>wanted to read the horror story in his book</i>	<i>but there were bangs on the roof and the lights went out</i>	<i>so he became more and more frightened.</i>

Lines 97 - 118

Somebody (Character)	Wanted (Goal/Motivation)	But (Problem)	So (Resolution)
<i>Joey</i>	<i>wanted to answer the door</i>	<i>but his mother told him not to answer it until she found what she was looking for</i>	<i>so Joey waited.</i>

Lines 119 - 130

Somebody (Character)	Wanted (Goal/Motivation)	But (Problem)	So (Resolution)
<i>Joey's mother</i>	<i>wanted Joey to answer the door</i>	<i>but Joey was too afraid to open it</i>	<i>so she told him that she found the money for the pizza.</i>

Lines 83 - 132

Somebody (Character)	Wanted (Goal/Motivation)	But (Problem)	So (Resolution)
<i>The pizza man</i>	<i>wanted the residents to open the door</i>	<i>but for some reason nobody opened it</i>	<i>so he kept waiting in the cold wet rain.</i>