

# SUMMARY writing Using SWBST

## INCLUDES:

- ✓ Teacher Instructions
- ✓ Anchor Charts
- ✓ Writing Checklists
- ✓ Sentence Starters
- ✓ Graphic Organizers
- ✓ 10 Short Fiction SWBST Practice Pages
- ✓ 10 Short Nonfiction SWBST Practice Pages
- ✓ PLUS answer keys

## Somebody Wanted But So Then Easy Way to Write a Summary &

### Tips for Strong Summaries

A good summary:

- ✓ Tells the most important events
- ✓ Does not include opinions
- ✓ Does **not** retell the entire story

Somebody

Who is the text mostly about?

Wanted

What did they want or need?

What problem did they face?

What did they do?

How did the story end?

Example  
Somebody was  
Wanted to win  
But his invention  
So he fixed it  
Then he learned

MARCY'S  
Mayhem

Teaching students how to write clear, concise summaries can be challenging. The Somebody Wanted But So Then (SWBST) strategy gives students a simple structure they can use to identify key details and turn them into strong summaries.

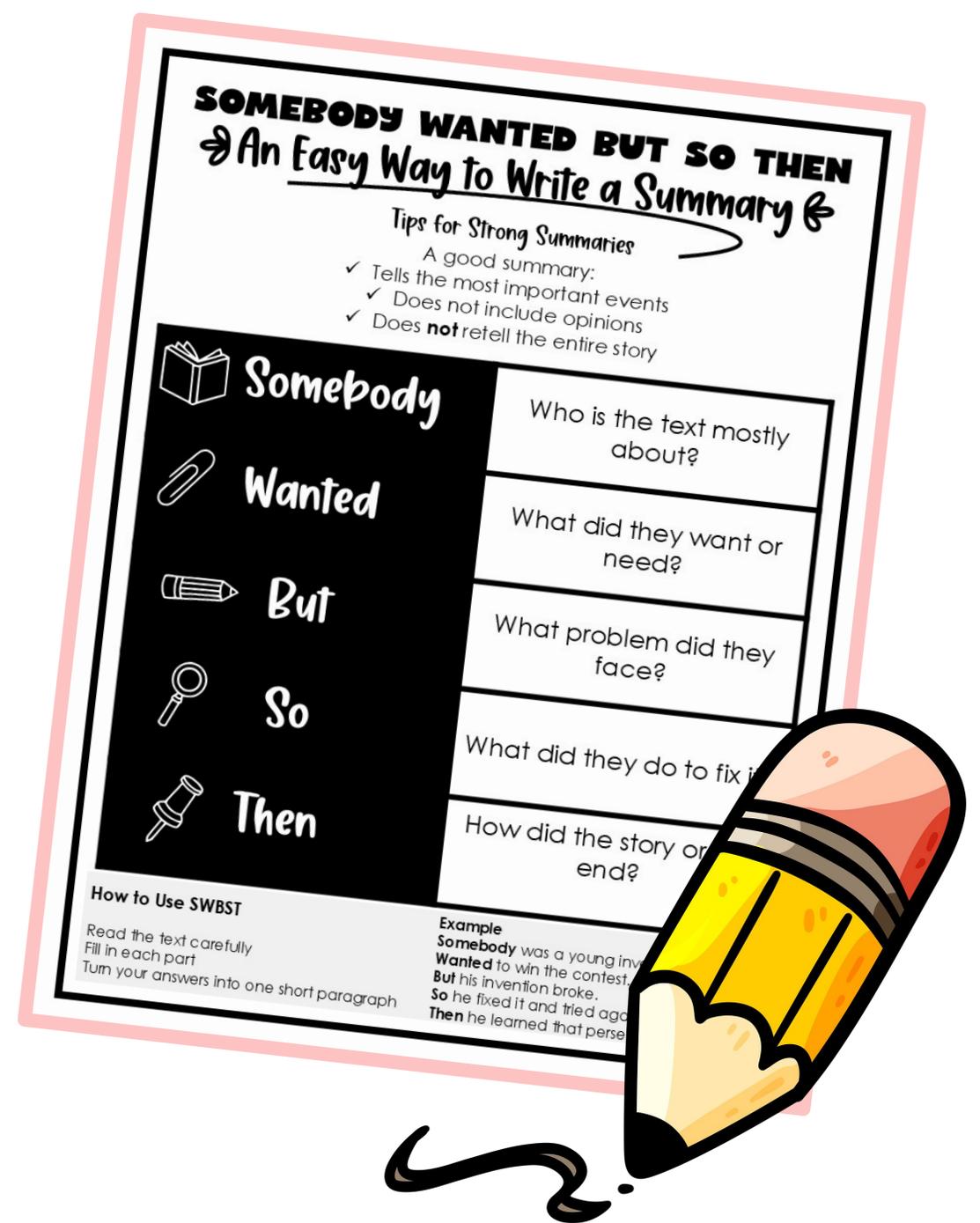
This print-and-go resource provides everything students need to learn, practice, and master summary writing using both fiction and nonfiction texts.

## What's Included?

- ✓ Student-friendly explanation of the SWBST strategy
- ✓ Anchor chart/reference pages
- ✓ Multiple graphic organizers for differentiation
- ✓ Sentence starters & transition words
- ✓ Summary writing templates (scaffolded to independent)
- ✓ Student checklist for self-assessment
- ✓ **20 original reading passages**  
Fiction and nonfiction  
Short and extended texts
- ✓ Answer keys for all passages
- ✓ Exit tickets for quick assessment

# Why Teachers Love This Resource

- ✓ **Explicit instruction** – Students are taught how to summarize step by step instead of being expected to already know the strategy.
- ✓ **Fiction & nonfiction included** – The SWBST strategy is modeled and practiced with both text types, making it easy to use all year.
- ✓ **Built-in differentiation** – Multiple graphic organizers, sentence starters, and writing templates support a wide range of learners.
- ✓ **Print-and-go ready** – No prep required. Just print and teach.
- ✓ **Perfect for intervention and test prep** – The structured format helps struggling readers focus on key details and main ideas.
- ✓ **Clear answer keys included** – Saves planning time and makes grading quick and easy.
- ✓ **Student-friendly and teacher-approved** – Clean layouts, kid-friendly language, and easy-to-follow directions.



# An Engaging Summary Resource!

## SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO THEN

### Summary Writing Practice

#### HOW TO WRITE A SUMMARY

#### Somebody • Wanted • But • So • Then

A summary tells the most important parts of a story or text without telling everything. One easy way to write a strong summary is to use **Somebody Wanted But So Then**. Read the text carefully, then answer each part below.

<p><b>Somebody</b> Who is the text mostly about? This could be a character, a group of people, or even an animal. Example: Somebody was a girl named Maya.</p>	<p><b>Wanted</b> What did 'somebody' want? This is the goal or purpose of trying to do something. Example: She wanted to win the science contest.</p>
<p><b>But</b> What problem did they face? This tells what went wrong or what made things difficult. Example: But her experiment failed the night before.</p>	<p><b>So</b> What did they do to solve the problem? This explains the solution. Example: So she started creating a new experiment.</p>
<p><b>Then</b> How did the story or text end? This is the result or outcome. Example: Then she won second place and learned never to give up.</p>	

#### Putting It All Together

When you finish each part, turn your answers into **one clear paragraph**.  
 ✓ Use complete sentences  
 ✓ Keep it short and clear  
 ✓ Only include important details

## SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO THEN

### An Easy Way to Write a Summary

#### Tips for Strong Summaries

A good summary:

- ✓ Tells the most important events
- ✓ Does not include opinions
- ✓ Does **not** retell the entire story

<b>Somebody</b>	Who is the text mostly about?
<b>Wanted</b>	What did they want or need?
<b>But</b>	What problem did they face?
<b>So</b>	What did they do to solve the problem?
<b>Then</b>	How did the story or text end?

#### How to Use SWBST

Read the text carefully  
 Fill in each part  
 Turn your answers into one short paragraph

**Example**  
**Somebody** was a young inventor.  
**Wanted** to win the contest.  
**But** his invention broke.  
**So** he fixed it and tried again.  
**Then** he learned that perseverance matters.

## SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO THEN

### Student Checklist

#### WRITING A SUMMARY WITH SWBST

- Students can use this checklist after completing the organizer or before turning in their work.
- I read the text carefully.
- I wrote who the text is about (**Somebody**).
- I explained what the somebody wanted or needed (**Wanted**).
- I included the problem (**But**).
- I explained what happened next (**So**).
- I told how the text ended (**Then**).
- I used complete sentences.
- I included only important details.
- I did not add my opinion.

Teach the SWBST strategy to students with these step-by-step instructions!

### Perfect For:

3rd, 4th, and 5th grade  
 Whole-group instruction  
 Small groups & intervention  
 Independent practice  
 Test prep  
 Sub plans  
 Writing centers

## Skills Covered

- Summarizing fiction and nonfiction
- Identifying main ideas
- Understanding problems & solutions
- Writing clear, organized paragraphs
- Using text evidence

A fun way to practice!

- ✓ 10 Short Fiction SWBST Practice Pages
- ✓ 10 Short Nonfiction SWBST Practice Pages
- ✓ PLUS answer keys

**SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO THEN**  
Summary Writing Practice **S W B S T**

Directions: Read the passage below, then use the SWBST Graphic Organizer to identify the important parts of the story and write a summary.

**Passage 1: The Lost Library Book**

Mia loved visiting the library every Friday after school. One afternoon, she realized the book she borrowed was missing from her backpack. She searched her room, her locker, and even the car, but it was nowhere to be found.

Mia felt nervous because the book was due the next day. She retraced her steps and remembered reading it during recess. After asking a teacher for help, she found the book under a bench on the playground.

Somebody	Wanted	But	So	Then

**SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO THEN**  
Summary Writing Practice **S W B S T**

Directions: Read the passage below, then use the SWBST Graphic Organizer to identify the important parts of the story and write a summary.

**Passage 2: Ethan's Soccer Goal**

Ethan had practiced soccer for weeks and hoped to score his first goal during the big game. When the game started, the other team played strong defense, blocking every shot.

Ethan felt disappointed but didn't give up. Near the end of the game, he passed the ball to a teammate and ran toward the goal. His teammate passed the ball back, and Ethan kicked it into the net just before time ran out.

Somebody	Wanted	But	So	Then

**SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO THEN**  
Summary Writing Practice **S W B S T**

Directions: Read the passage below, then use the SWBST Graphic Organizer to identify the important parts of the story and write a summary.

**Passage 19: Cleaning Up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch**

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a vast area of the ocean where plastic waste has accumulated. Ocean currents pull trash into this area, where it becomes difficult to remove. The plastic kills sea animals and pollutes the water.

Scientists and environmental organizations sought to reduce plastic pollution in the ocean. However, the garbage patch covers a huge area, and much of the plastic is broken into tiny pieces. Cleaning it up seemed almost impossible.

To address this problem, researchers developed special floating barriers and cleanup systems. These were designed to collect plastic without harming marine life. Volunteers and organizations also worked to reduce plastic use on land.

Although the problem is not completely solved, cleanup efforts have removed tons of plastic from the ocean. Awareness has increased, and more people are working to protect ocean ecosystems.

Somebody	Wanted	But	So	Then

**SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO THEN**  
Summary Writing Practice **S W B S T**

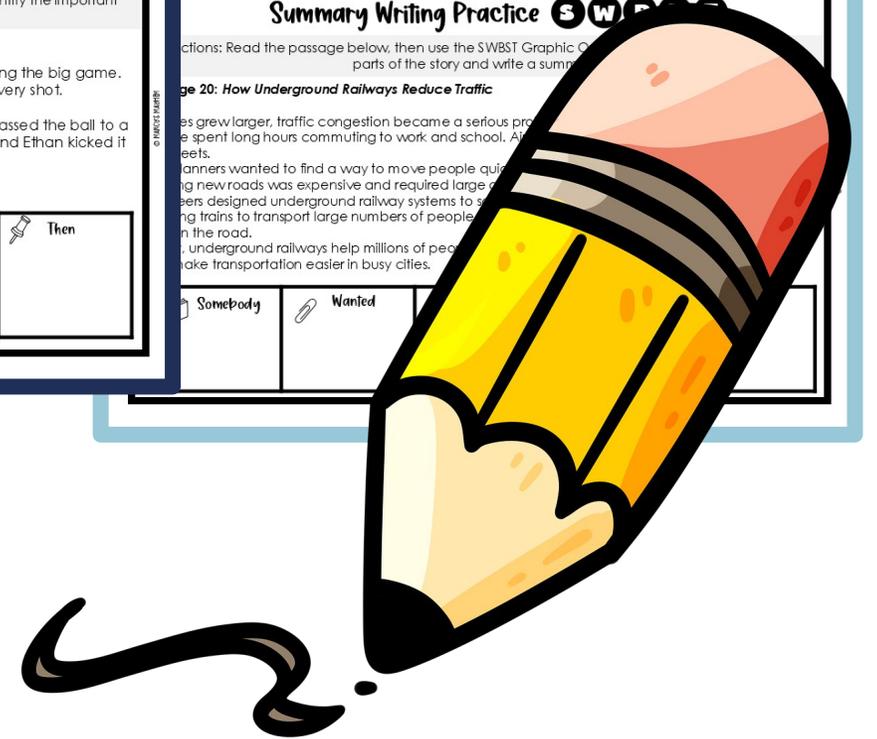
Directions: Read the passage below, then use the SWBST Graphic Organizer to identify the important parts of the story and write a summary.

**Passage 20: How Underground Railways Reduce Traffic**

As cities grew larger, traffic congestion became a serious problem. People spent long hours commuting to work and school. Architects and engineers wanted to find a way to move people quickly. Building new roads was expensive and required large amounts of space.

Engineers designed underground railway systems to transport large numbers of people out of the road. Today, underground railways help millions of people get to work and school, making transportation easier in busy cities.

Somebody	Wanted	But	So	Then



Keep kids organized with graphic organizers and exit tickets to practice this strategy!

**SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO THEN**  
Summary Writing Practice **SWBST**

Directions: Read the text and answer each part of *Somebody Wanted But So Then*. Use your completed organizer to write a short summary.

SOMEBODY	WANTED	BUT	SO	THEN

Once your chart is complete, use the information to write your summary below.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO THEN**

Directions: Use the sentence starters below to write a summary.

The text is mostly about \_\_\_\_\_

They wanted \_\_\_\_\_

But \_\_\_\_\_

So \_\_\_\_\_

Then \_\_\_\_\_

Write your summary below.

**SWBST**

<p><b>SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO THEN</b> Exit Ticket <b>SWBST</b></p> <p>Directions: Write a 2-3 sentence summary using SWBST.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><b>SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO THEN</b> Exit Ticket <b>SWBST</b></p> <p>Directions: Write a 2-3 sentence summary using SWBST.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p><b>SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO THEN</b> Exit Ticket <b>SWBST</b></p> <p>Directions: Write a 2-3 sentence summary using SWBST.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><b>SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO THEN</b> Exit Ticket <b>SWBST</b></p> <p>Directions: Write a 2-3 sentence summary using SWBST.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

**Standards Alignment**

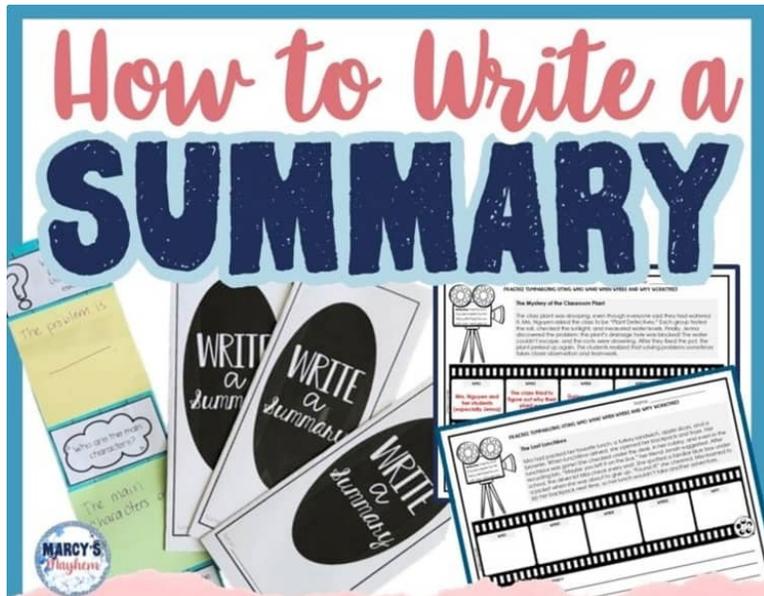
- TEKS: 3.6(G,H), 4.6(G,H), 5.6(G,H)
- Common Core: RL/RI.3.2, 4.2, 5.2



*No Prep Resource!*

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...click the covers below to see them

# How to Write a SUMMARY



**20 SHORT STORIES WHOM WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, AND WHY**  
**12 WRITE A SUMMARY TRIFOLD PRACTICE PAGES,**  
**SENTENCE STRIP PRACTICE, ANSWER KEYS**  
**& ANCHOR CHARTS INCLUDED** *Bundle*

MARCY'S *Playtime*

# SUMMARY

## Trifold & Sentence Strip Activity

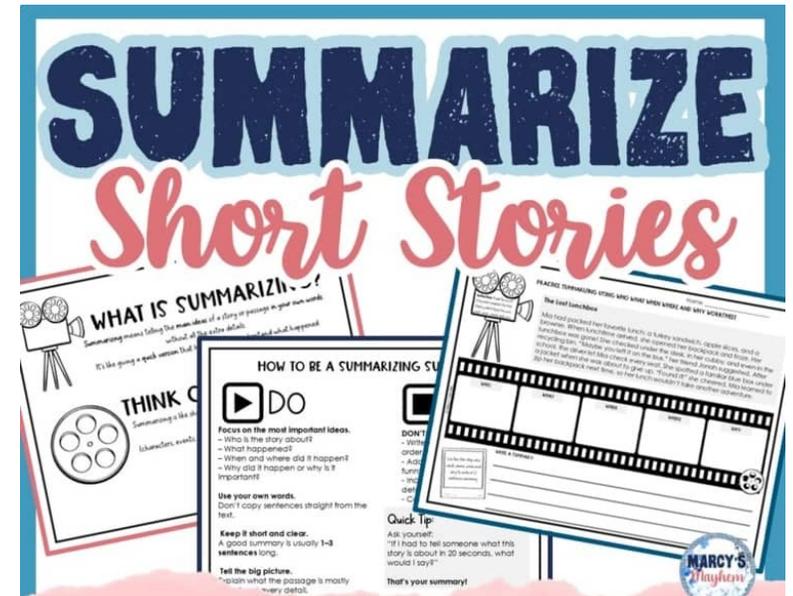


**SHOW STUDENTS HOW TO YOU WRITE A SUMMARY IN A FUN WAY.**  
**12 STORIES TO CHOOSE FROM OR PICK YOUR OWN!**  
**UPPER ELEMENTARY**

MARCY'S *Playtime*

# SUMMARIZE

## Short Stories



**TEACH SUMMARIZING USING WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE AND WHY**  
**20 SHORT STORIES, ANSWER KEYS & ANCHOR CHARTS**

MARCY'S *Playtime*