

Somebody Wanted But (Because)So

This is a powerful During Reading and Post Reading strategy that helps students remember what they read, summarize and gather supporting details and generate discussions about the topics you present. It works as a quick quiz or a major classroom discussion, or an oral presentation outline.

The Reading Skills addressed with this strategy reach all content areas. Please let me know if you would like to see this modeled.

- Identifying conflicts and resolutions
- Identifying differences, goals, and motivations
- Identifying main ideas and details
- Recognizing cause-and-effect relationships
- Making generalizations
- Understanding how shifting the point of view emphasizes different aspects of a story

Overview of the "Somebody Wanted But So" or "Somebody Wanted Because So" Strategy

Student identification conflicts and resolutions can be assisted by the use of the "Somebody Wanted But (Because) So" (SWBS) reading strategy.

1. Students complete a chart by creating a SWBS statement that identifies a character, an idea an event or a real person, the goal/motivation, a conflict, and the resolution of the conflict. The chart has four column headings:

Somebody (Main Character, Figure)	Wanted (goal/motivation)	But (Because) (conflict/reason)	So (resolution)

Activities for the "Somebody Wanted But (Because) So" Strategy

- This strategy works well in non-fiction reading as well as in fiction. Then, explain the SWBS reading strategy to them.
- Model the SWBS reading strategy by doing the following:
 1. Review the story of Cinderella with the class. (Any narrative will work.)
 2. Ask the students to use the information from narrative to create a written SWBS statement for Cinderella, **supporting their statement with evidence from the text.**
 3. Record the SWBS statements in the chart below.

Somebody (Main Character, Figure)	Wanted (goal/motivation)	But (Because) (conflict/Resolution)	So (resolution)
Cinderella	wanted to go to the Ball.	but her grumpy stepmother and stepsisters stopped her	so her Fairy Godmother stepped in to help her.

Somebody (Main Character, Figure)	Wanted (goal/motivation)	But (Because) (conflict/Resolution)	So (resolution)
The nasty Stepmother	to stop Cinderella from going to the Ball	She wanted the Prince for one of her daughters and she thought Cinderella might get in the way.	she made certain that Cinderella had plenty of work and no nice clothes to wear.

4. Discuss differences among the student SWBS statements for Cinderella and her Stepmother.

5. Explain that there can be more than one SWBS statement. (Great for Discussion)

Notes:

Differences among SWBS statements can be attributed to the differences in the students themselves, their experiences, their viewpoints, and their personal interpretations of the passage. Differences can also be accounted for by the fact that characters as well as real people may have many goals and motivations complicated by a conflict.

Discuss how the SWBS chart helps readers identify conflicts and resolutions.

For reinforcement of the SWBS strategy, place students in small groups and have them practice creating SWBS statements for characters from television shows they have recently watched, other tales from childhood, current news stories, or content area topics, **supporting their statements with evidence**. Have students share their SWBS statements with the class.

Adapted from the work of Kylee Beers, **When Kids Can't Read, What Teachers Can Do.**

The addition of "Because "and its application to non-fiction text is an adaptation provided by teachers in Prince William County Schools.

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