

Simple Fiction Summary

When we summarize a story, we want to include the main character (**somebody**), what the character wanted (**wanted**), the problem or conflict in the story (**but**), how the character solved the problem (**so**), and the final event or end (**then**). By following this structure, we ensure that only the key parts of the story are included in the summary.

Summary Phrase Bank

In summary

To sum up

To summarize

In conclusion

To conclude

Directions: Use the Somebody-Wanted-But-So-Then framework to write a summary of the following story. Then, choose a phrase from the bank above to complete the paragraph frame summary.

Lola was excited to be in fifth grade this year because it meant she was old enough to go to outdoor science camp. Ever since she heard about the three-night school field trip to a local campground that was an important tradition for Washington Elementary School, she could not wait to go. "Mom, I have the permission slip for you to sign for outdoor science camp! Yippee, I'm finally in fifth grade and I get to go to science camp!" Lola exclaimed when she got home from school. Lola's favorite subject was science and she couldn't wait to be out in nature conducting real experiments. Her mom hugged her as she read the letter. Suddenly, her mom's face changed from pure joy to a sad, concerned expression. "Oh sweetie, it says we have to pay \$150 for the field trip. I'm so sorry but we can't afford that right now. You know things are tight now," her mom said to her. Lola was crushed. She ran to her room, crying. As she lay in bed, she thought to herself, "I am going to find a way to get the money I need to go to outdoor camp! There has to be a way!" Lola couldn't feel mad at her mom because it wasn't her fault that she lost her job a few months before and had been trying hard to get a new one—with no luck. Lola grabbed a notebook and wrote down some ideas for ways to raise the money. By dinnertime, she had a list of five ideas which included selling her clothes, asking her grandpa for money, and hosting a car wash and bake sale event. She showed the list to her mom, hopeful that she would approve one of her ideas. Her mom agreed that she could do a car wash and bake sale to raise the funds needed for the field trip. The following weekend, Lola and her mom worked tirelessly to wash cars and sell baked goods in front of their house. It worked! They raised a total of \$168. The mother-and-daughter team was thrilled! On Monday, Lola proudly turned in her permission slip and money to her teacher.

DIRECTIONS: For the first box, choose a summary phrase from the word bank above. For the second box, type the main character. Then fill out the rest of the boxes.

Summary Paragraph Frame

(summary phrase from bank)

(somebody)

What did she
want? →

(wanted)

What was the
problem? →

(but)

How did she
solve it? →

(so)

How did it
end? →

(then)