**Strategies to Help Your Child Write a Summary**

\*We have taught these 3 strategies/formats to our students. The children use the strategy that works best for them and/or their book or topic, then use their work as a sort of ‘prewriting’ to help them write a complete summary. (Examples are provided using the story, “Little Red Riding Hood”)

**Somebody Wanted But So Then (SWBST)**

Write Somebody Wanted But So Then (or SWBST) vertically down the left side of a piece of paper.

Write the answer to each word/question to help organize ideas for a summary.

Example:

**S**omebody: Little Red Riding Hood

**W**anted: to deliver treats to her sick grandmother

**B**ut: the wolf found out about Red’s trip, and got to Grandma’s house first

**S**o: the wolf hid Grandma in the closet and pretended to be Red’s grandmother

**T**hen: the woodsman came just in time to keep Red and her grandmother from being eaten by the wolf

**Who/What/Where/When/Why/How**

This one is pretty self-explanatory ☺ Write an answer to each of the question words.

**Who**: Red Riding Hood

**What**: Red was sent to deliver treats to her sick grandmother

**Where**: She took a different route, and went through the forest

**When**: The wolf met Red in the forest, and beat her to her grandmother’s house

**Why**: The wolf wanted to eat Red and her grandmother

**How**: The wolf tried to trick Red into thinking he was her grandmother, but just as she discovered the trick, the woodsman came in and saved her

**Beginning, Middle, End (BME)**

Write one or two sentences about the most important details for the beginning, middle and end of the story.

**Beginning Middle End**

Red Riding Hood’s mother Red meets a wolf along the way, When Red gets to

asked her to deliver a basket and tells him about her trip to Grandma’s, she notices

to her sick grandmother. Grandma’s. The wolf races to that something is

 Grandma’s house to eat both wrong. Just as the wolf

 ladies. is about to eat her,

 the woodsman enters

 and saves them.

