

# Summarizing

## The Five Finger Summary Strategy

### What is summarizing?

- Summarizing involves taking large sections of text and reducing them into shorter, concise passages.
- Summarizing involves the key ideas or the “gist” of the story or article.
- When summarizing, you should use your own words without changing the meaning of the writing, and you should maintain the plot’s sequence.

# The Five Finger Summary Strategy



- The five finger summary is an easy method to quickly summarize any narrative piece.
- It can be used for a page, for a chapter, or for an entire book.



# Somebody...

- This is the person considered the main character.
- This character drives the action of the story.
- It can be a group.

# Wanted...

- What is the main character trying to do?
- What is the goal of the character?
- This usually leads to the problem.

# But...

- This is the main problem of the story.
- It is usually in the middle of a story.
- It is the challenge facing the main character.

# So...

- This is the main consequence of a story.
- It is also usually found in the middle of the story.
- It can sometimes come before the “but.”

# In the end...

- This represents the solution or resolution of the story.
- It is usually at the end.



# Example of the Five Finger Summary

- The **three little pigs** **wanted to build** their own houses, **but** a wolf kept blowing them down one at a time. **So**, each piggy escaped to his brother's house for safety. **In the end**, all three pigs were safe in the last pig's brick house.