3 Summary Techniques (for 2PI students)

A **summary** is a brief outline of what happens in a story (or in real life). Three techniques to help you write a summary are:

**Technique #1: Key Words**

This is a good technique for any form of reading

* Write down 5 key words that you find when reading the text
* In two minutes, use your key words to explain what happens in the story to a partner
* Incorporate the 5 key words in your explanation
* Or, if you’re writing a summary, write one sentence about each key word

**Technique #2: Headlines**

This is a great technique for informational reading

* For each chunk of text you read (a page or a paragraph), write a headline for that section (as if you’re going to read about it in a newspaper)
* Organize your headlines to retell the story concisely

**Technique #3: Somebody Wanted But So**

This is a great technique for summarizing a whole story, thinking of it as a plot graph.

* **Somebody** – Who the story is about?
* **Wanted** – What is their goal?
* **But** – What conflicts or complications get in their way?
* **So** – What is the resolution?