

Social Studies
Working with Big Ideas

Kylene Beers (2003) offers many strong strategies for working with struggling readers in her text *When Kids Can't Read: What Teachers Can Do*. The strategies that she suggests focus on how to help struggling readers; however, they are also good strategies to use with all readers. One strategy that she suggests is Somebody Wanted But So (pp. 144-152). This strategy asks students to complete a graphic/structural organizer about the key elements of a passage. For example:

Somebody	Wanted	But	So
Germany	to feel strong and powerful and not weak	the harsh reparations imposed after WWI kept them from governing themselves and paying a lot of money	The people accepted the Nazi party and their message of nationalism

This strategy provides students with a way to figure out what is going on in the passage while helping them organize what they know/have figured out. This strategy is open-ended enough that it can be used for simple passage decoding as well as more challenging and detailed analysis that focuses on cause and effect or action/reaction. Beers also added complexity to the reading strategy when she discussed adding the THEN section to the graphic organizer.

Somebody	Wanted	But	So
Germany	to feel strong and powerful and not weak	the harsh reparations imposed after WWI kept them from governing themselves and paying a lot of money	The people accepted the Nazi party and their message of nationalism.
Then			