1-hand summary: quick, handy reminders for summary writing

Summaries are short. Summaries are fact only—no opinions! Aim for five sentences max. Here’s how:

1. Topic sentence. . .
2. Someone. . .
3. Wanted. . .
4. But then . . .
5. Finally . . .

some handy starters:

1. **This book is about** (One sentence that tells what the whole paragraph will be about. Take words from the title!)
   - The article [title] focuses on. . . / The article [title] shares news about. . .
2. **Someone. . .** (first thing on first finger)
   - Who is the main character? Who are the main characters? What people are involved?
3. **Wanted. . .** (biggest finger)
   - What did the character(s) or people want?
4. **But then. . .** (ring finger)
   - What was the problem? What was the conflict?
5. **Finally. . .** (pinky)
   - What was the resolution to the problem? How did it end?

example:

The article from *The Washington Post*, “Northern VA Girl Wins Global Chess Tournament**, focuses on 12-year old Jennifer Yu winning a big chess tournament and becoming a “national master”. Jennifer Yu is a student in Northern Virginia who became the first American girl in 27 years to win the World Youth Chess Championship. Jennifer began playing chess in first grade, and, at first, she didn’t take chess too seriously. But then she moved to Virginia and started taking chess lessons and going to competitions. Now she is a chess master and one of the top rated-players in the country.