



Opening a story

The first few lines are important because they set the tone and make the reader want to read on. This is called a 'hook'. Choose two of the possible options on this worksheet for opening a story:

- to 'grab the reader'
- to introduce characters
- to create a setting

Then write the first paragraph of your story. be about half a page long.

- using dialogue
- asking a question
- using action (e.g. a dramatic event)
- describing some strange behaviour of one of the characters
- using a dramatic exclamation
- portraying character through action and dialogue
- using powerful verbs to show how a character behaves and feels
- revealing the characters' thoughts
- creating atmosphere by describing the setting
- creating atmosphere by using the weather, time of day and season

My Hero – With Terry Deary



Evaluation Sheet. Evaluate the story opening of your partner and give a feedback. What was good? What could be improved?

- Read the story opening of your partner and comment on it in the right column of her/his text. You can use these symbols:
 - For parts you like: ++
 - For parts you’d like to know more about: !
 - For parts you find unclear: ?
 - For parts that are unnecessary: ()
 - For problems in English: ~~~~~
 - You can also write suggestions
- Fill out the evaluation table. Read the statement in the left-hand column. Draw one of the faces shown below in the middle to express if you like the statement or not. Then write a comment, explaining what you like or what could be better, for example:
 - The story opening makes me curious because of the strong wording.
 - The description of the setting could be more detailed.
 - The author uses many adjectives to create a scary/exciting atmosphere
- Present your evaluation to your partner. Explain to him/her what you liked, what you didn’t like and what you would advise for the second draft.
- Listen to your partner’s evaluation of your own story opening. Decide which changes you want to make. Write a second draft.



Comments and tips

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| Her/his opening surprises me/ makes me curious. | | |
| The characters are introduced in an interesting way. | | |
| You can imagine the setting very well. | | |
| The story is well-written. | | |