

Story Starters



Use these pages to help get students started who just “don’t know where to begin.” It is also a fun way to teach about good opening lines for writing. Here are some ways to help students learn to begin a story in an interesting way with these lines (some of them borrowed from classics).

Class Story: Write one of these openings on the board and have students take turns each adding one sentence to the story.

Individually: Students can choose the starter of their choice and use it to begin a short story.

Speed Writing: Have students place their desks in a big circle (or two or three smaller circles, depending on class size), with their privacy folders up. Hand each student one of the story starter pages. Tell students to place their pencils across the corner of their privacy folders when they have written a sentence. Make sure they pay attention to the type of narration the first writer used. After all students have their pencils up have them hand their pages to the person on the right. The next writer adds the second sentence to the story.

You may want to split the class into circles that are assigned a particular narration voice, especially as a reinforcement if this has recently been learned.

It was a dark and stormy night...

Once upon a time...

In a galaxy far, far away...

In a faraway kingdom...

On a small raft in the middle of the ocean...

It was a very hot and humid summer's day...

During a terrible snowstorm in the middle of winter...

Everyone knows that you should never, ever...

As the red sun rose over the sandy desert dunes...

I knew it was a bad idea when I started, but I just couldn't help but...

There were once two brothers and two sisters named...

As I awoke one morning, I found myself transformed into a giant...

There was once a spoiled little girl who was sent to live in a great, big mansion...

As I write this, I am currently curled up in...

It should come as absolutely no surprise to anyone that...

You don't know me, but you're about to find out that I...



The very first thing I remember is that...

The absolute worst thing that ever happened to me was...

It wasn't a nice hotel, but it sat right in the middle of...

At the end of the alley a small moving shadow could just be seen...

On a crisp, golden fall afternoon...

It was a soggy April day and I had forgotten to bring my umbrella with me to...

The first thing I noticed about her was her hat. It was absolutely, positively the...

As the train came to a sudden stop, the puzzled travelers all looked up to find...

Now I have to admit that things probably would have gone a lot better if only...

The waiter greeted her with a smile as she walked through the doors of...

As the clock struck midnight, everyone looked up at the sky to see...

I am fairly certain, though not completely certain, that I was not dreaming when...

I was sitting on a picnic bench in the park, minding my own business, when what should fall into my lap but a...

He could have chosen to take the other road, but he didn't, and now he is stuck...



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[illegible]



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[illegible]



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[illegible]



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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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This image shows a single page from a notebook or ledger. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal black lines across its entire width, providing a guide for writing. The margins are consistent on all sides, and there are no vertical lines or other markings present.



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