

Student Reference Page

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Starting Off on the Right Foot!



One way to make your writing more interesting and entertaining is by starting off with a great, attention grabbing beginning! Here are some techniques authors use to begin their stories:

- 1.) **AN ACTION** - *Put your main character in your setting doing something interesting and relevant to the story.*

Ask: What would you do?

ex. Joey ran full steam ahead across the corral and jumped on the back of the wild stallion!

- 2.) **DIALOGUE** - *Have your main character say something.*

Ask: What might you say or exclaim?

ex. "I can't wait to see the Grand Canyon!" I shouted.

- 3.) **A THOUGHT OR QUESTION** - *Show the main character's thoughts, or raise a story question.*

Ask: What would you wonder or worry?

ex. I wondered if we'd make it out alive.

- 4.) **A SOUND** - *Grab the reader's attention through the use of a sound.*

Ask: What might you hear?

ex. BOOM! Jack flinched as the thunder and lightning rolled in over the hills.

Beginning tips - Begin your story as close to the main event as possible. For example, if it's a story about being marooned on a tropical island, don't begin the story two weeks before you leave, reading through travel brochures. Begin on or near the island. If you're writing about a day at the beach, don't begin waking up, getting dressed, and having breakfast--begin at the beach! Get right into the action so that you don't lose your reader! Also, since it is very difficult to weave many characters throughout the story, a good strategy is to have your main character start off alone.