

Can I understand and use
different ways to hook the
reader?

Fast Five

Think of five sentences using adverbs and verbs that could describe this picture.



Fast five examples

She gracefully slid down the slide.

He rocked quickly

The toy fell rapidly down the slide

The toy tumbled rapidly down the slide

The girl happily played in the sand.

The girl playfully made a sand castle

The tiger teddy sat proudly at the top of the slide

Story Openers

- Story openers help to set the tone for the rest of our writing.
- A good opening makes the reader want to read on.
- It should tantalise the reader with an idea of who, where, when or what is happening or what is doing to happen.

Stories can open with a character description.

‘Mr Stink stank. He also stunk’.

from *Mr Stink* by David Walliams



Stories can open with a description of a setting

‘There was once a gaggle of mountains, tall and proud, each with a hat of snow.’

from *Stone Goblins*,
by David Melling



Stories can open with a description of both a character and a setting

‘A thousand miles ago, in a country east of the jungle and south of the mountains, there lived a Firework-Maker called Lalchand.....’

From *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*
by Phillip Pullman



Stories can open with dialogue.

‘Mollly!’ Maria shouted to her sister.

‘Would you please shut that window....’

from *School for Stars: Second Term*

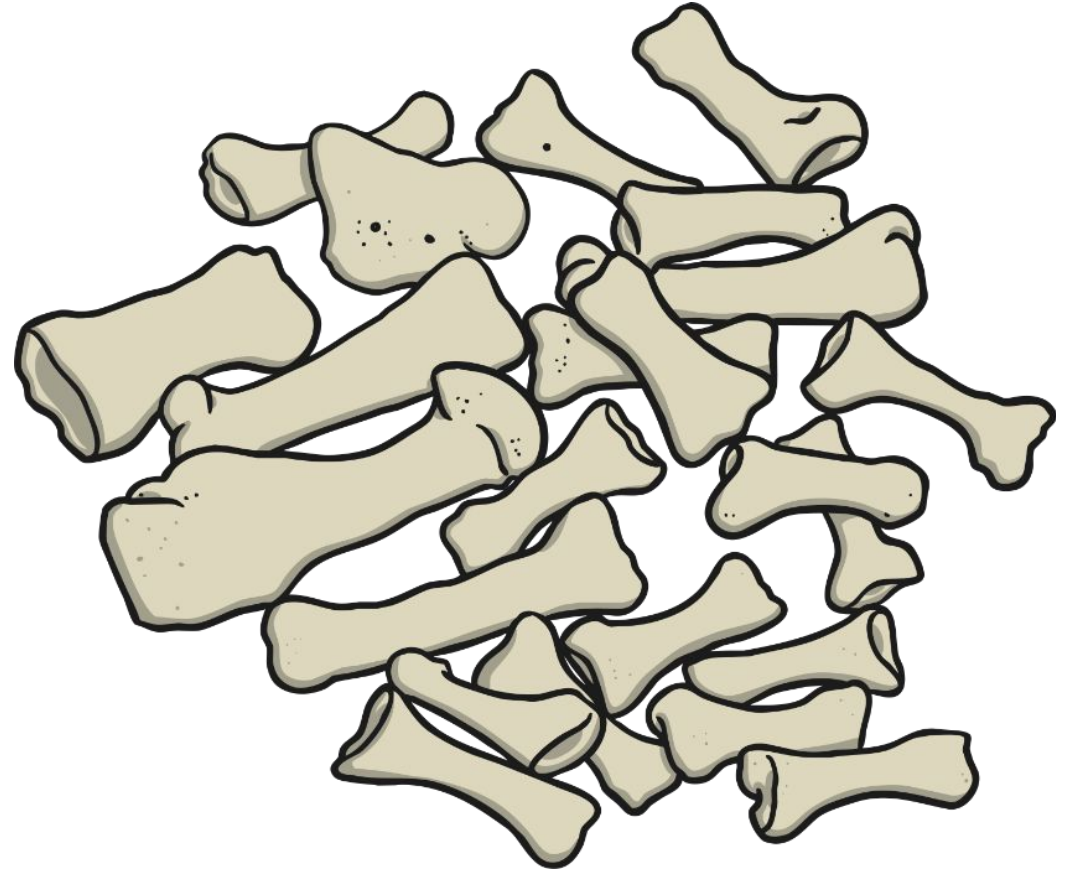
at *L’Etoile* by Holly and Kelly Willoughby



Stories can open with action.

‘Jesse was always finding bones in the great bog-oak field where they dug the peat for the winter fires.’

from *The Ghost of Grania O'Malley*
by Michael Morpurgo

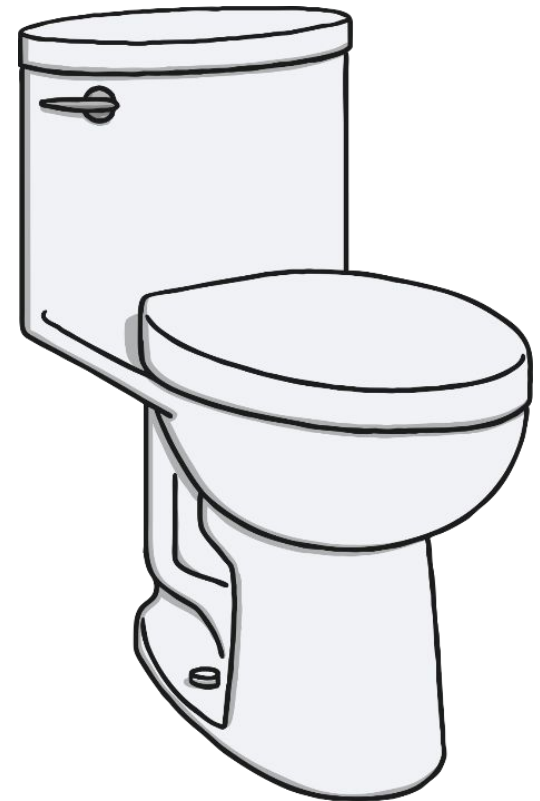


Stories can open with a question

- Good openers sometimes leave the reader with an unanswered question, which can only be answered by reading on.

‘Ever had the feeling your life’s
been flushed
down the toilet?’

From *The Toilet of Doom* by
Michael Lawrence



Stories can open with a statement

‘In fairy tales, witches always wear silly black hats and black cloaks, and they ride on broomsticks.’

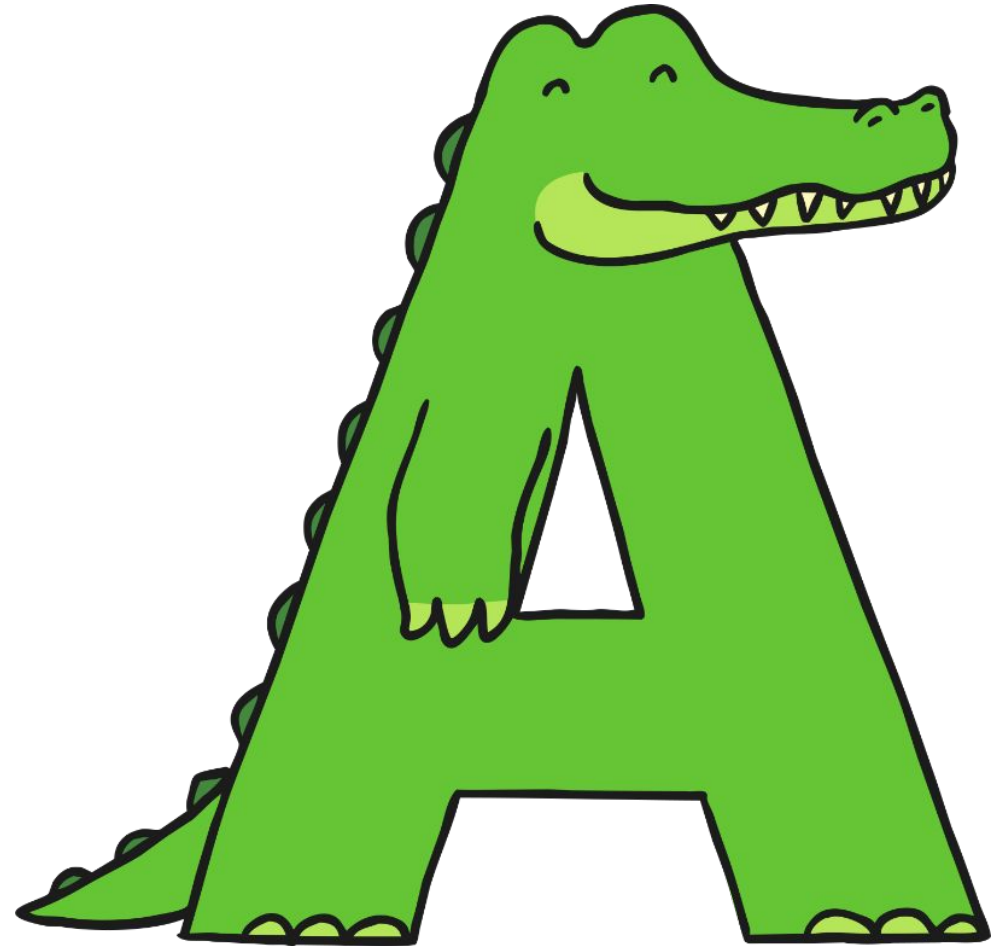
from *The Witches*, by Roald Dahl



Stories can open with a fronted adverbial

‘Ages ago, Alex, Allen and Alva arrived at Antibes...’

From *Alphabetical Africa* by
Walter Abish



Your turn – How have these sentences been started?

- It was a wild, dark, stormy night...
- Jimmy woke up with a shock! Something was coming out of his wardrobe...
- The old cottage looked deserted but Mary wasn't so sure, could there be anybody living her?...
- From behind me I heard a small voice "Can you help me?" it said. "I think I'm lost."
- Jaz's auntie was a witch. She wasn't wicked at all, she was wicked fun...

Your turn – Answers

- It was a wild, dark, stormy night... **Setting Description**
- Jimmy woke up with a shock! Something was coming out of his wardrobe... **Action**
- The old cottage looked deserted but Mary wasn't so sure, could there be anybody living her?... **Question**
- From behind me I heard a small voice "Can you help me?" it said. "I think I'm lost." **Dialogue**
- Jaz's auntie was a witch. She wasn't wicked at all, she was wicked fun... **Character description**

Your task – use the success criteria

- Red – To write your own sentence starter using 4 of the examples shown.
- Yellow – To write your own sentence starters using 6 of the examples shown.
- Green – To write your own sentence starters using all of the examples shown.
- Extension for all – to finish your sentences using the success criteria features.