

# Story Openers



twinkl

# Story Openers

**LO:** To select and use appropriate openers in narrative writing.



# 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.



- ▶ A good opening tantalises the reader with an idea of who, where, when or what is happening (or is going to happen).

# Story Openers

- ▶ Stories can open with a **character description**.

‘Mr Stink stank. He also stunk’.

from *Mr Stink* by David Walliams





# Story Openers

- ▶ 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



# Story Openers

- ▶ 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



# Story Openers

- ▶ 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



# Story Openers

- ▶ 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





# Story Openers

- ▶ 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



# Story Openers

- ▶ 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

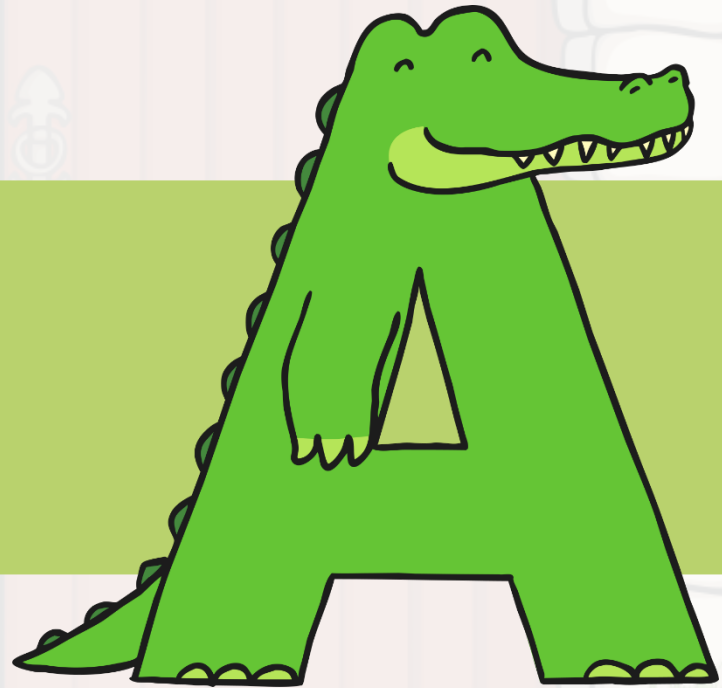


# Story Openers

- ▶ Stories can open with **a fronted adverbial**.

'Ages ago, Alex, Allen and Alva  
arrived at Antibes...'

From *Alphabetical Africa* by Walter Abish





twinkl