

Story Starters

Beginning with exciting sentences

Level: Beginner

Time: 45 minutes

Materials: short story (optional), board or visual aid describing story starters, worksheet (one for each student or have the student copy the worksheet from the board), slips of paper with one starter strategy.

Objective: Students will learn how to start stories strategically.

1. Motivation/Warm Up

If you choose to, read a very short story that has an exciting lead sentence (perhaps one of the methods below). Ask students what they liked about the story and what made them want to listen to the story.

2. Presentation

Explain the importance of capturing your readers' attention in the first sentences. Share various story starters with students and an example of each:

- a. Dialogue
- b. Sound effect
- c. Ask a question
- d. Action lead (action verbs)
- e. Snapshot of the setting
- f. Flashback (describe a past event)

3. Practice

Tell students a summary of a story and give them 20 minutes to brainstorm six alternative story starters using the "My Story Leads to Hook the Reader" following this lesson plan description.

4. Produce

Give the class a common prompt (or a couple prompts to choose from). Before class, you should have alternately written the starter strategies on slips of paper (one strategy per slip of paper). Let the students draw a slip of paper. They should use this starter strategy and the assigned prompt to write a story.

My Story Leads to Hook the Reader



Directions: Write a lead sentence for your story using each of the strategies below.



Dialogue: _____



Question: _____



Snapshot: _____



Flashback: _____



Sound Effect: _____



Action: _____
