

Thursday 25th June 2020

Learning Objective

To draft a story opening, describing the setting, characters and atmosphere.

Steps for Success

To convert notes into a draft of structured sentences.

To select appropriate grammar and vocabulary for my draft.

To include description of setting, characters and atmosphere.

Planning and Drafting Stages

So far, we have had three lessons of preparing planning ideas that can be used to inform today's drafting process.

a plan of words and phrases for your story opening

sentences featuring modal verbs in the story context

a developed description of a fictional creature

Today, use these sources to write a draft of your story opening.

Structure

Story Opening Structure

Beginning

Your story might start with some action, dialogue or a description of the setting.



Build-Up

Further description involving the setting and creatures will help to build up the opening section.



Dilemma

Aim to build up to a dilemma. What has happened? What problem is there? How has it been caused? How do your creature and setting link to the dilemma?

Opening Lines

Sometimes, the most difficult part of writing can be just getting started.

Here are some ideas for your opening lines:

Action



Choose an opening sentence that immediately throws the reader into the action of an event or something dramatic happening.

Dialogue



Start with some direct speech from a character, even if they are just saying something out loud to themselves!

Description



Write a more gradual beginning by describing parts of the setting. Paint a picture with your words of where it is taking place.

Opening Lines

Action

- An opening sentence that immediately throws the reader into the action of an event or something dramatic happening.

Dialogue


- Direct speech from a character

Description

- Describing parts of the setting to paint a picture with your words of where it is taking place.

Opening Lines

Write on a whiteboard an idea for your opening lines, it could be one of the three ideas on the previous slide or something totally different!



Aim to get the reader's attention!

Draft Opening

- Using the plans you have made, plus the opening lines created in this lesson, your task is now to write a draft of your story opening in your books.
- Aim to include a beginning, a build-up and a dilemma.
- Remember, we are not writing a full story, just an opening, which should leave the reader wondering what happens next!
- Include description of the setting, characters and atmosphere.
- Use sentences that you have prepared, describing the creature, and look for opportunities where modal verbs are used.

Draft Writing Support

I can draft a story opening, describing the setting, characters and atmosphere.

Opening Sentences

If you find it difficult to start your story opening, try one of these ideas:

Action

Choose an opening sentence that immediately throws the reader into the action of an event or something dramatic happening.

E.g. Amongst tumbling trees, Anders leapt over the fast-flowing river in a desperate rush for safety.

Dialogue

Start with some direct speech from a character, even if they are just saying something out loud to themselves!

E.g. "What was that horrible noise?" mumbled Anders to himself as his eyes scanned the horizon, trying to identify the source of the chilling sound he had just heard.

Description

Write a more gradual beginning by describing parts of the setting. Paint a picture with your words of where it is taking place.

E.g. Dry, sandy soil was packed down on the ground, with twisting trunks and bare branches of spindly trees rising up into the cold dark sky.

Ideas to Think About

What are they doing there?

- trying to escape
- destroying the area
- looking for something
- chasing someone

How does your character feel in the setting?

- scared/nervous
- brave
- excited
- surprised
- delighted
- angry

What does your character need to do?

- save the creature
- stop the creature
- help someone or something
- save the area
- escape



Use this to help you!!