



WHAT MAKES A GOOD STORY OPENING?

Year 3 Lesson Plan 4

This lesson plan will be looking at story openings.
A good opening leaves the reader or audience asking questions.



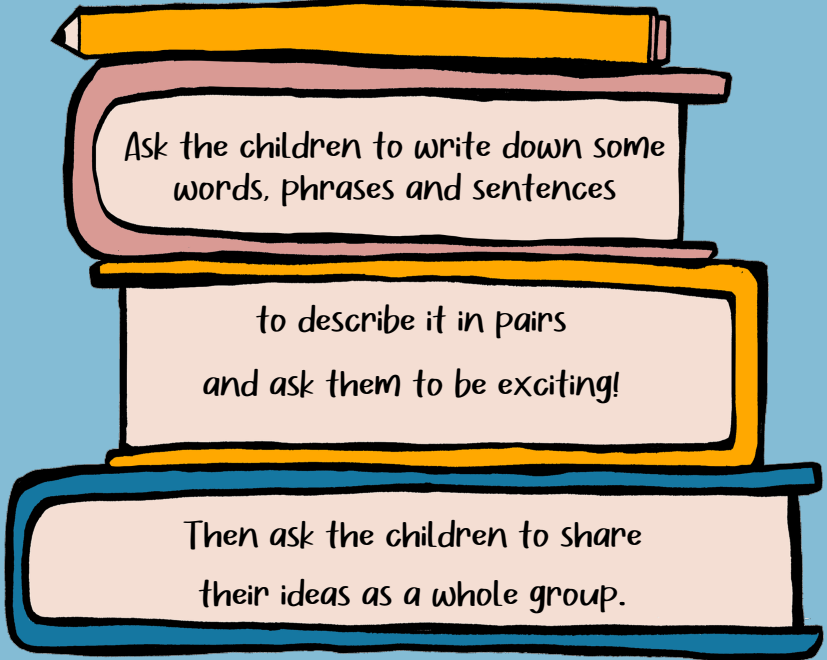
THE LOWRY

What makes a good story opening?

In this lesson you are going to be exploring what makes a fantastic opening.

This is the picture we could to include in our story.
This is an image from part of a painting by LS Lowry called, *Broughton Houses*.





Ask the children to write down some words, phrases and sentences

to describe it in pairs
and ask them to be exciting!

Then ask the children to share
their ideas as a whole group.

Openers

Story openers help to set the mood and tone for the rest of our creative writing.

During this lesson the focus will be on four main types of openings:

1. Describing a character
2. Describing the setting
3. Beginning with an action
4. Beginning with dialogue (talking)

Remember the 5Ws. A good opening leaves the reader or audience with an idea of who, where, why, when, what (and how) is happening (or is going to happen)

Examples:

A good story opener starts leaves the reader or audience wanting to ask a question...

Which is your favourite?

A. The little girl walked down the road. She was going to see her Granny, for tea.

B. 'What are you doing here! This is my house and you shouldn't be here!'

C. The wind swirled sound the deep, dark forest. The boy curled under a tree, sheltering from the danger...

D. The old lady looked out of the window and stared. It had been so long since she had seen her daughter

Examples:

Stories can open with a character description:

"Mr Stink stank. He also stunk"
from *Mr Stink* by David Walliams

Or they can open with a description of a setting:

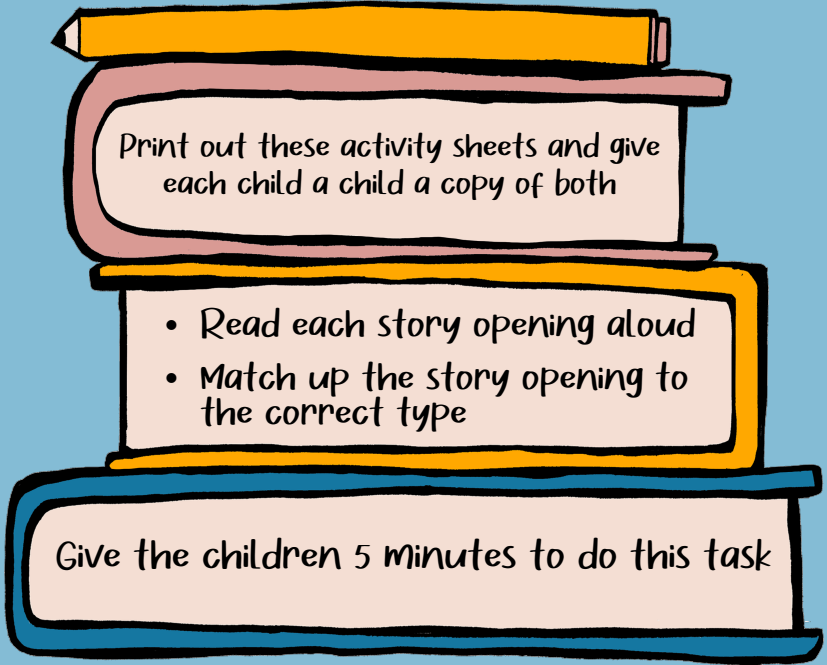
"There was once a gaggle of mountains, tall and proud, each with a hat of snow."
from *Stone Goblins*, by David Melling

Or they can open with dialogue:

"Molllly!" 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 also open with action:

**"Jesse was always finding bones in the great bog-oak field
there they dug the peat for the winter fires."**
from *The Ghost of Grania O'Malley* by Michael Morpurgo.



Print out these activity sheets and give each child a child a copy of both

- Read each story opening aloud
- Match up the story opening to the correct type

Give the children 5 minutes to do this task



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In pairs choose a story opening

What kind of opening is it?
Use the templates to help work this out

Do the children agree with each other?



Ask the children to vote on which of the story openings is their favourite and why?

Do this in a physical way and designate a space in the room to a particular opening and encourage the children to move around and discuss why they have chosen them.

