



IMPROVING AN OPENING?

Year 4 Lesson Plan 5

All writers have to edit their work.
This means to improve what they have already written, to choose the best words, phrases and sentences.

Look at your openings again

What makes them good?

Agree on a success criteria.

What ingredients do writer's need to include to encourage their readers to read on?

- Looking back at the success criteria from last session, do your ideas match up with this possible criteria?
 - hook the reader with an interesting opening.
 - make the reader ask questions about the story.
 - include dramatic actions.
 - introduce something appealing.
 - descriptions about characters inner thoughts and feelings.



Look at your openings again

Can you remember the 4 ways to open a story?

- Settings
- Dialogue
- Action
- Character

Example opening: Humming under his breath, Bert pulled on his welly boots. Picking up his flat cap, he fitted it snugly on his head and pulled open the back door. Stepping into the faint morning sunshine he breathed in deeply, filling his lungs with the cool, fresh air. A smile hung around his lips as he rambled down the lane, drinking in the abundance of colours and smells.



In pairs discuss the questions:

- What is the atmosphere?
- Which words or phrases create the atmosphere?
 - Do you want to read on? Why?
- What type of story do you think this will be?

Look at your openings again

Example opening: Lily crouched down behind the wall, trying to make herself as small as possible. Her hands trembled. Her breath sounded loud in the silent air. The silence did not last. Slow, deliberate, heavy footsteps were making their way towards where she cowered. They stopped. She heard a low, menacing laugh, felt a sharp pain and then, nothing.



Ask the children to work in pairs and think about:

- What is the atmosphere?
- Which words or phrases create the atmosphere?
- Questions for the children to consider about Lily?
 - How is she feeling?
 - What do you want to know?
 - What story might this be?

Look at your openings again

Example opening: Lily crouched down behind the wall, trying to make herself as small as possible. Her hands trembled. Her breath sounded loud in the silent air. The silence did not last. Slow, deliberate, heavy footsteps were making their way towards where she cowered. They stopped. She heard a low, menacing laugh, felt a sharp pain and then, nothing.



Refer back to the success criteria.

Does it...

- hook the reader with an interesting opening.
- make the reader ask questions about the story.
- include dramatic actions.
- introduce something appealing.
- descriptions about characters inner thoughts and feelings.
- Do you need to do/add anything else?



Read your opening aloud to your partner. Put expression into your voice.

- Does your partner want you to read on?
- How could your writing be improved?
- Check that you have included everything in the success criteria.
 - What does your partner think you can improve on?

Remember that all writer's edit their work, to ensure that every sentence and description is the best it can be!

Timed activity (10 minutes): Have a look back over your opening.

Is there any revising or editing needed?

| Revise | Edit |
|---|--|
| ARMS | CUPS |
| A Add sentences and words | C Capitals: sentences, names, places, months, I |
| R Remove unneeded words or sentences | U Usage: match nouns and verbs correctly |
| M Move a sentence or word placement | P Punctuation: ? ! , " " |
| S Substitute words or sentences | S Spelling: Check all words, use your resources |

Use this to help: