

OPENING LINES: STARTERS FOR STUDENT FICTION

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Offer several of the following (or edited versions of them) to your class as starters for a fictional writing assignment. Each student chooses one sentence to use as his/her opening line and creates a brief, point-form plan. Then students compose their story using the appropriate narrator and complete the assignment to a specified length.

- I was always an optimist until . . .
- Maria was angry with their reaction.
- It seemed like a simple request.
- Her father had always told her to avoid the cemetery after dark.
- The car's acceleration punched Jamie back into the seat.
- It was Thursday night, the week before the party, when Bob called Janet.
- We all knew what would happen next.
- Fire glowed ominously in the dark.
- Suddenly all of the candles were extinguished!
- As I wandered through the field, I heard a scream from the barn.
- Her first impulse was to throw it into the fireplace.
- Even veterans are exhausted when they fight in the rain.
- Two skilful thieves removed the jewel case.
- Anne and I were junior engineers when we met at our first job.
- Their parents arrived just as we were leaving.
- He began to panic as the river began to rise.
- Teesha dashed out of the room before anyone could stop her.
- We caught up to them before they reached the gate.
- That day at the beach marked the beginning of their attraction to each other.
- Since it was already bitterly cold, Willis pulled his coat more tightly around him.
- A careful person, the cashier checked the money twice before putting it in the safe.
- When the home team tied the score, their supporters cheered until they were hoarse.
- Standing on the bridge, I scanned the horizon.
- The rabbit dashed across the field as the dogs followed in close pursuit.
- We watched that suspicious character enter the elevator and press "12".
- Someone recently bought the house beside ours.
- Ali found a purse filled with cash and credit cards.
- Last week's hailstorm ruined everyone's crops.
- She couldn't remember his name, but . . .
- Before I could get very far, my car ran out of gas.
- Her family had never been so happy.
- Our favourite teacher was leaving our school forever.

