



teachstarter

Seven Sensational Story Starters



Why Start Sensationally?

- The first few sentences of a narrative text are extremely important. Once the reader has read the first few lines of your story, they will make a decision about whether or not to keep reading. Your job as an author is to make sure that they do!
- One of the most effective ways of achieving this is to use a sensational story starter which leaves your reader wanting **more**. This is sometimes referred to as a 'hook' – just like a fish, you want your reader hooked on your story so they cannot escape!
- Here are seven sensational story starters, with examples, which you may like to try and use in your own narrative writing.

Action

Start your narrative with **intense, captivating action**.



The flying saucer spun recklessly out of control, twisting frantically across the sky in all directions. There was no stopping the doomed machine now; a terrible disaster seemed inevitable.

Description of a Setting

Start your narrative with a **description of a setting**.

On the top of a hill, Longreach Castle stood proud and silent. The wooden drawbridge was raised; the windows blackened; the turrets dotted with soldiers in a state of constant alert. Passers-by should move along; for they would not be welcome here.



Description of a Character

Start your narrative with a **description of a character**.



Bruce the Burly vigorously punched the sky with his thick, muscular arms. It was a sign of celebration; of victory. He clenched his rusted sword tightly in his right hand and bared his teeth to his fallen enemies.

Dialogue

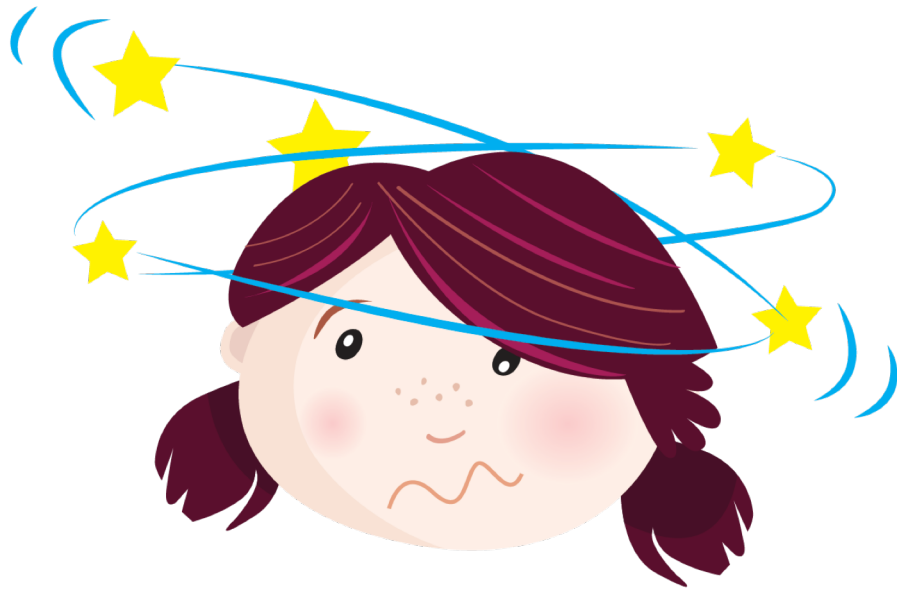
Start your narrative with a **conversation**.

“We have to get out of here... NOW!” Joshua called, frantic. “I hear you!” Jenna cried, picking up speed. “Remember the rules... we must never, ever be seen!”



Rhetorical Question

Start your narrative with a **confronting rhetorical question**.



Have you ever felt like your head was spinning out of control? Does it seem to keep turning, faster and faster, relentlessly sending you off balance?

Statement

Start your narrative with a **thought-provoking statement**.

I've always wondered why witches have such a terrible reputation. It seems awfully unfair to label them all as devious, ugly creatures. Most of the witches I've met have been quite the contrary.



Onomatopoeia

Start your narrative with an **attention-grabbing sound**.



*CRASH! "What was that?"
Chrissy cried, waking suddenly
from a deep sleep. She sat
upright in her bed, clutched
tightly to her teddy and stared
anxiously around the bedroom.*