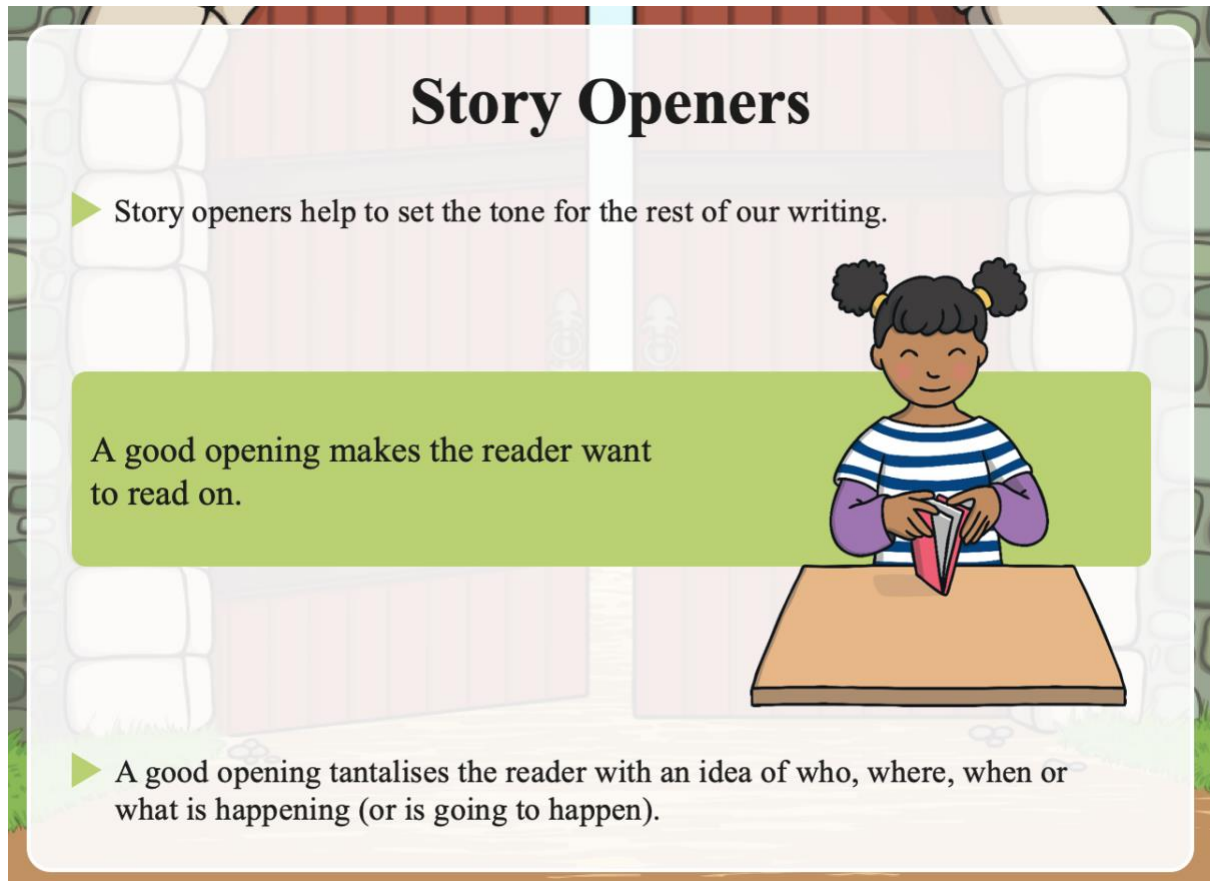


Day 6 – Literacy story opener


Today we are going to be writing our story opening. Look at the following story openings first and think about how you will hook your reader from the very first line.



Story Openers

- ▶ Story openers help to set the tone for the rest of our writing.

A good opening makes the reader want to read on.



- ▶ A good opening tantalises the reader with an idea of who, where, when or what is happening (or is going to happen).

Story Openers

- ▶ Stories can open with a **character description**.

‘Mr Stink stank. He also stunk’.

from *Mr Stink* by David Walliams



Story Openers

- ▶ Stories 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

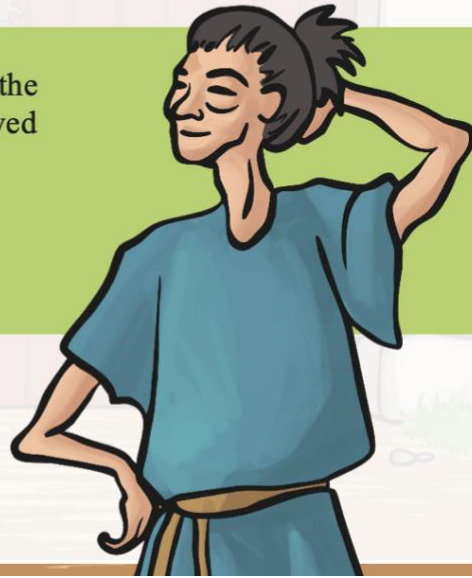


Story Openers

- ▶ Stories can open with a **description of both a character and a setting.**

'A thousand miles ago, in a country east of the jungle and south of the mountains, there lived a Firework-Maker called Lalchand....'

From *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*
by Phillip Pullman



Story Openers

- ▶ Stories can open with **dialogue.**

'Mollly!' 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

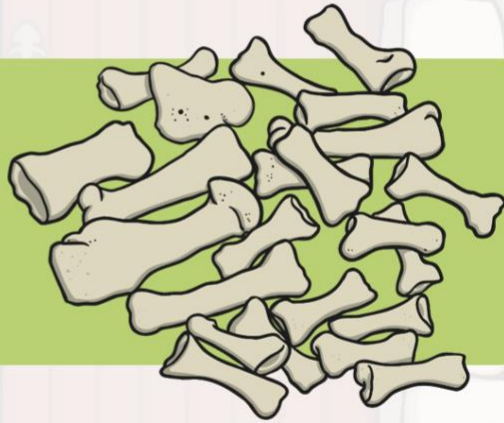


Story Openers

- ▶ Stories can open with **action**.

'Jesse was always finding bones in the great bog-oak field where they dug the peat for the winter fires.'

from *The Ghost of Grania O'Malley*
by Michael Morpurgo



Story Openers

- ▶ Stories can open with a **question**.
- ▶ Good openers sometimes leave the reader with an unanswered question, which can only be answered by reading on.

'Ever had the feeling your life's been flushed down the toilet?'

From *The Toilet of Doom* by Michael Lawrence



Story Openers

- ▶ Stories can open with a **statement**.

'In fairy tales, witches always wear silly black hats and black cloaks, and they ride on broomsticks.'

from *The Witches*, by Roald Dahl



Story Openers

- ▶ Stories can open with a **fronted adverbial**.

'Ages ago, Alex, Allen and Alva arrived at Antibes...'

From *Alphabetical Africa* by Walter Abish

