



INVITATION TO THE READER

AUDIO NOTES OUTLINE

Today we're going to be talking about what goes in the beginning of your story.

You must invite the reader into your book so that they sit down, stay put and don't stop reading.

To discover how to write a good beginning, think about what it feels like when you start reading a novel and know you're going to love it. What has the writer done to create that response?

Good books start the story right in the middle of the action.

BEGINNINGS MUST HAVE:

- Fascinating characters
- Engaging plot ideas
- Intriguing settings and circumstances
- Wonderful writing

1. FASCINATING CHARACTERS

2. ENGAGING PLOT IDEAS



3. INTRIGUING SETTINGS AND CIRCUMSTANCES

4. WONDERFUL WRITING

EXERCISE: YOUR FAVOURITE OPENING LINES

The start of your novel has to invite the reader in, and persuade them to stay. It has to pique their interest in a way that also reflects the genre you are writing in.

'Of course she was anxious. She had never planned a murder before.'

This is the opening line from 'Dust' by Kimberly Freeman.

What we see in this sentence is:

- A direct narrative hook;
- A sense of the character's relationship with that dramatic event (she is anxious);
- A sense of wider conflict, premise and context, and;
- Dramatic tension.



WHAT TO DO:

1. **Identify your favourite opening lines.** Look through some of your favourite books and think about why the opening lines persuaded you to continue reading. What was it about those words, those lines that created a satisfying invitation to you, the reader?
2. **Post an example** of the first 4 -5 of these lines on the **Opening Lines Forum** to share with your classmates. **Explain** to the group why you think these lines work so well.
3. **Read** your classmates favourite opening lines and **post a reply comment on 4 or 5 of them.** In your comment explain if you understand what they have understood in the opening. Explain what you understand.

EXERCISE: YOUR OPENING PARAGRAPHS

- Write an opening of 1-2 paragraphs for your story (no more than 300 words)
- Submit to your tutor by email to this address: submissions@awmonlinelearn.com.au
- Make sure your subject heading is: 'YONline – [Insert Your Name Here]'. If you do not appropriately label your email as specified in the subject heading you may not receive feedback on your piece.