

Interesting Introductions

Write better beginnings! Try strategies used by award-winning authors.

Character Description

When Mary Lennox was sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle, everybody said she was the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen. It was true, too. She had a little thin face and a little thin body, thin light hair and a sour expression. Her hair was yellow, and her face was yellow because she had been born in India and had always been ill in one way or another.

The Secret Garden by Francis Hodgson Burnett

Action

HERE WE GO AGAIN. We were all standing in line waiting for breakfast when one of the caseworkers came in and tap-tap-tapped down the line.

Uh-oh, this meant bad news. Either they'd found a foster home for somebody or somebody was about to get paddled.

All the kids watched the woman as she moved along the line, her high-heeled shoes sounding like little firecrackers going off on the wooden floor.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rocks and began to pick his way towards the lagoon.

Lord of the Flies by William Golding



Setting Description

It was a dark and stormy night.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

The first place that I can well remember was a large pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it. Some shady trees leaned over it, and rushes and water-lilies grew at the deep end. Over the hedge on one side we looked into a plowed field, and on the other we looked over a gate at our master's house, which stood by the roadside; at the top of the meadow was a grove of fir trees, and at the bottom a running brook overhung by a steep bank.

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

Dialogue

"Where's Papa going with that axe?" said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

"Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo, lying on the rug.

"It's so dreadful to be poor!" sighed Meg, looking down at her old dress.

"I don't think it's fair for some girls to have plenty of pretty things, and other girls nothing at all," added little Amy, with an injured sniff.

"We've got Father and Mother, and each other," said Beth contentedly from her corner.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

