

Writing Good Beginnings

About writing good beginnings: A good beginning gets readers interested in your story or article and makes them want to keep reading.

Why do you need to know this? A good beginning in a story or article will grab the readers' attention and make them want to read on.

Ways to Write Good Story Beginnings

- Tell about a problem.

After school one day Alicia walked home the same way as always. She turned left on Maple, right on Shade Lane to Ash, only today there was no Ash. In the space where the street and sidewalk should have been, there was a house. It seemed a nice enough house, but it wasn't her house and she did want to get home.

- Use details that appeal to the senses.

The moon floated serenely in the night sky, bathing our camp in a silver sheen. Sparkling droplets of dew transformed every tree and bush. Suddenly the night's peacefulness was shattered. We all jumped up and snapped on our flashlights.

- Ask questions.

Why would Theo tell everyone my secret? He is my best friend, isn't he? Yet everyone knows that

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When to Use Parentheses

Definition: Parentheses are punctuation marks. They are used to show information that is added to the main part of the sentence.

Why do you need to know this? Sometimes you will use parentheses to help put your ideas in a sentence. Knowing the rules will help you use parentheses.

Rules for Using Parentheses

1. Parentheses are put around extra information in a sentence. The information may tell what one of the words in the sentence means.

Ralphie is a canine (dog).

2. The words in parentheses may give the reader more information.

Columbus's trip to America (1492) was an important event.

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