

Some Ways to Start Stories

- Character
- Setting
- Dialogue
- Right in the middle of the action

Character

Once there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy.

--The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Dorothy lived in the midst of the great Kansas prairies, with Uncle Henry, who was a farmer, and Aunt Em, who was the farmer's wife.

--The Wizard of OZ

Setting

Way out at the end of a tiny little town was an old overgrown garden, and in the garden was an old house, and in the house lived Pippi Longstocking.

--Pippi Longstocking

It was an afternoon in late September. In the pleasant little city of Stillwater, Mr. Popper, the house painter, was going home from work.

--Mr. Popper's Penguins

Dialogue

“Do you ever think about what you want to be when you grow up?” I asked my best friend, Erin.

Cinderella Smith: The Super Secret Mystery

“I am NOT a pest,” Ramona Quimby told her big sister Beezus.

Ramona the Pest

“There are dragons in the twins’ vegetable garden.”

--A Wind in the Door

Right in the middle of the action

“Help!” The voice that called out was strangely shrill and muffled. “Help! Help!”

--The Three Investigators in the Mystery of the Stuttering Parrot