

Some of the techniques a writer might use to create an arresting opening are listed here :

- *Raising questions in the reader's mind, so that they want to read on to find out the answers.*
- *Using several of the five senses.*
- *Using short sentences or sentence fragments for dramatic effect and to vary the pace.*
- *Using powerful verbs.*
- *Creating an intriguing, dramatic or powerful situation.*
- *Creating an intriguing character that the reader wants to learn more about.*

1. Read the extracts below, all of which are chapter openings from the novel. Decide which you think would make the best opening for the first chapter and be prepared to explain your choice to the class

It was 7 minutes after midnight. The dog was lying on the grass in the middle of the lawn in front of Mrs Shears' house.	1
My name is Christopher John Francis Boone. I know all the countries of the world and their capital cities and every prime number up to 7,507.	2
This is a murder mystery novel.	3
This will not be a funny book. I cannot tell jokes because I do not understand them. Here is a joke, as an example. It is one of Father's. His face was drawn but the curtains were real.	4

2. With a partner, take the opening you chose in the last activity and continue writing to make an opening paragraph. Use some of the techniques listed above to try to make the reader want to read on.

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