

Sizzling Starts!

Technique

Definition

Example

Start at the Action

Choose an action-packed point to begin your story.

Steph felt the wind roar in her ears as she hurtled headfirst towards the river. The bungee cord stretched and stretched. Eventually it pulled back, bouncing her like a yo-yo.

Dialogue

Capture the reader's attention by starting your story with a character speaking.

"Come on, kid. You're holding up the line," the ride operator grunted.
Jack felt sick. His eyes followed the path of the waterslide as it twisted and looped before a final drop.

Question

Ask the reader a question to involve them in your story.

Have you ever wished the ground would just open up and swallow you whole? That's exactly how I felt last Friday night at the school dance.

Curiosity

Present an interesting or unusual thought or event at the beginning to pique the reader's curiosity.

Half walking, half running, Rick ducked into an alleyway. He crouched, hiding in the shadows.

Humour

Begin with something humorous to catch the reader's interest.

My parents always tell me that every day is a gift. I feel like asking where I can return Mondays.

Onomatopoeia

Begin your story with a word that represents a sound. *Boom!*

Tick...tock...tick... Kate watched as the second hand dragged itself around the clock. She wondered if the day would ever end.

