

Story openings

For the teacher:

Copy each of the openings on a separate sheet. Ss work in groups of four. Give each student a different story opening. Ask them to read it carefully and ask you any unknown words. Ss try to imagine the scene as vividly as possible, then they get five minutes to continue the story on the sheet. After 5 minutes Ss pass their sheets on to the next group member. ... Repeat 4 times, until the sheet comes back to the first student. He/she then finishes the story.

Possible follow-up: Students who have the same openings meet in a group and read the different story versions. They choose the best parts and write their own version at home.

The Hook (from Michael Rosen, Ed, *The Oxfam Book of Children's Stories*, South North East and West)

It was a dark night, and John was walking along an old country road. He was tired, and the rain was beating down on his face. Where would he spend the night? He couldn't sleep out here in the rain, and the ground was sodden. On he walked. Again and again, he lifted his head into the rain and tried to make out the shape of a hut or a house. Nothing. But then, after what seemed hours, he noticed....

The Cliff (from Michael Rosen, Ed, *The Oxfam Book of Children's Stories*, South North East and West)

Anthony was on holiday in Malta visiting his grandparents. He was only three, looking out of the window of their car, seeing places he had never seen before. slowly, he started feeling unhappy. He didn't know why. He just knew that the mood in the car had changed, and Mom and Dad and Grandad weren't singing and laughing anymore. Grandad was looking to and fro like he didn't know where he was. Mom had stopped talking and was watching Grandad and glancing across at Dad with funny looks....

The Strap Box Flyer (from Paul Jennings, *Thirteen Unpredictable Tales*)

Hundreds of people were watching Giffen. They thought he was a bit mad. But they couldn't stop looking. He was very interesting.

Giffen went over to his truck and got out a tube of glue. On the tube it said GIFFEN'S GREAT GLUE. IT WILL STICK ANYTHING. Giffen held the glue over his head. 'This is the best glue in the world,' he said. 'It can mend anything that is broken. Who has something that is broken?'

Spaghetti Pig-Out (from Paul Jennings, *Thirteen Unpredictable Tales*)

Guts Garvey was a real mean kid. He mad my life miserable. I don't know why he didn't like me. I hadn't done anything to him. Not a thing....