

Bold Beginnings: *Wonderful Ways to Start a Story*

Onomatopoeia: Sounds can bring your story to life instantly!

Boom, Rattle, Crash, Buzz

Snapshot Setting: Describe the story's setting in detail. Use strong adjectives and verbs to capture the moment.

Snapshot Character: Is there a character in your story that

Foreshadowing: Hook your reader by sharing a glimpse of what happened in the small moment. What do you wish you would have known beforehand? Would you have done something differently?

Dialogue: Start your story with a captivating conversation. Throw your reader into the scene!

Flashback: Describe a past event to capture your reader's attention right off the bat!

Bold Beginnings Exercise

Small Moment: Standing in line for the Avatar Airbender Coaster

Onomatopoeia:

Vrooooooom, rattle, rattle, crash sounded in my ears and shook my body to the core. It was a loud, terrifying combination of sounds that I don't miss but I'll always recognize.

Snapshot Setting:

Children of all ages and sizes ran this way and that. They were out of control with energy and excitement, as their parents, chaperones, babysitters, or whoever it's job was to watch them, chased desperately after them. Everywhere you looked it was a mad dash to snack vendors, rollercoaster rides, and high ropes courses.

Snapshot Character:

I didn't realize that I was biting my lip until it started to ache. It was a habit that took over whenever I was nervous, and I really was. The closer I got, the more jittery my whole body became. My foot began tapping and I started twisting and turning my fingers around and around with each step. I'm too old for this I thought to myself. This is not how adults are supposed

to act. But at that moment, I didn't feel much like an adult. I felt like I was small and helpless.

Foreshadowing:

If I had known that I would be flipped and flopped upside down, twisted and twirled till I lost my voice, and dizzyingly disoriented I definitely would have done things differently, right?

Dialogue:

“Hey guys, what about *that* ride over there? The one that takes you around the whole park. It's scenic and calm?” I crossed my fingers they would take the bait. Please, please, please take the bait I thought to myself.

“That one's so boring a dull. You'll like the coaster way better. It's fast and furious!”

“Oh, that does sound fun!” I responded in a high-pitched, over excited voice. That's when I knew I was doomed.

Flashback:

I remember the rush of the moment, the energy, my racing heart. It was a memory I can never forget and I hope to rarely recreate. But, I think I secretly kind of loved it.