

Ways to Begin your Story

Introduce your story's setting: Where does your story take place? What does it look like? What does it smell like? Is it magical? Is it real? Help your reader create a picture of where your story takes place.

Ex. A long time ago, in a far away land there lived a young girl by the name of Anastasia. She lived in the small town of Melody, but songs and tunes were seldom sung anymore. Although the town was once hustling and bustling with markets and goods, many people had left after the disastrous event. The people that stayed no longer wore flowers in their hair and skipped around. Life had changed and so had the poor people in the town.

Ex. Once the spell was cast, the town was forever changed. The town of Melody was a tiny town located in the middle of an enchanted forest filled with tall trees and curtains of flower-filled vines. All who passed through Melody left with a song in their ears and a skip in their step until that dreadful day.

Introduce your main character: In most stories, readers care about the main character the most. They want to know what type of person the character is-what do they look like, what do they wear, what type of personality do they have?

Ex. Anastasia was not like any of the other village girls, and she knew it. She wore simple and plain clothes instead of decorated silken gowns, and she wore her hair in a simple braid behind her back. She did not think it right to wear silly clothes that would only get dirty the moment she set to work in the castle kitchen.

Ex. Inside the giant castle's walls, in a small room off of the kitchen, lit only by a single flame, there lived a small girl and her mother. The young girl's name was Anastasia. Her jet-black hair shimmered and shined in the candlelight as she dressed herself in plain servant clothes. Once her hair was braided and her laces were tied, she entered the kitchen, prepared for a long day's work.

Try doing both!