**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. In the kingdom of Valhalla, a land filled with brave Viking soldiers, Freya and Kethrys roamed. Often they would find themselves waiting on the valiant men who had died bravely in battle. Freya liked the sounds of the men shouting and stirring, at the long wooden tables in the great palace of Valhalla. They retold stories of their glory days, the battles they won and the men they slaughtered. She wished to one day fight in dangerous battles, so that she would have stories of her own.

Ex. One find day, Freya left the kingdom of Asgard to help her friend Kethrys in the kingdom of Valhalla. Freya liked visiting the brave men of Valhalla. She felt good helping and waiting on them as they told stories of their past lives as brave Viking warriors.

**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. Freya’s long, blonde braids swayed in the wind as she made the journey to Valhalla. She walked gracefully, holding her head high, as all goddesses did. She enjoyed waiting on the brave soldiers of Valhalla and always looked forward to her well-spent afternoons.

Ex. Inside the great palace of Valhalla, the goddess Freya wandered gracefully around the rows of long, wooden tables. Her cheery voice and rosy cheeks made the men smile as she took their orders and listened to their stories of battles won and lost. Her long, blonde braids shimmered and shined in the brightly lit room as she wandered here and there.

**Try doing both!**