



Step 2: Sizzling Starts

Seven Steps Writing Tips

Children often start their stories at the beginning of the day, the start of the week or even the first day of the school holidays. Encourage them to start where the action is or at a moment of change.

Before:

I leapt out of bed that morning and hurried to get dressed because today Dad was taking us to the zoo. I was really excited because they have this big monkey enclosure there and I am mad about monkeys. I also needed to get some really good photos for my science project.

After:

'Here,' I told my sister, 'hold my backpack. I'm just going to get a bit closer to the monkey's cage.'

A bit closer meant over the fence, past the 'No Entry' sign and right up to the wire.

'You're monkey mad,' said my sister.

Well, maybe I was, but I was also desperate for an 'A' in my latest science project. A picture of a cute monkey, smiling right at the camera, would make all the difference, right?

TOP TIP:

Start stories right where the action begins. Not in the morning, but at the zoo as the person sneaks up to the lion's cage, shiny earrings dangling in the sun, just waiting to be grabbed by a quick, sharp claw. This will make the story far more interesting.



ACTION ACTIVITY:

Next time you are watching a movie with your children, see how the movie begins with lots of action to grab your attention. Action movies (e.g. James Bond) are especially good at this.



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