

Sentence starters for middle and high school students

Here are lots of sentence starter writing prompts. We recommend that they be used with middle school and high school students.

Sentence starters...

- List six true sentences that begin with the words “I’ll never forget...”
- Tell this story: “Well, I thought it was going to be a regular summer doing all our regular things...”
- A guitar pick, a red balloon, and a wicker basket. Write a scene or a poem that includes these three objects.
- Imagine that someone says to you, “Because that’s how we’ve always done it!” Write this out as a scene. (Think: Who said it, what were the circumstances, how did you respond, etc.)
- What can we learn from contrast? Write a description of something very dark (like a crow) in a very light place (like a field of snow). Make the dark thing seem innocent and the light thing seem ominous.
- “I was so mortified, I wanted to crawl in a hole!” Write a short narrative (fiction or nonfiction) where this is your first sentence. Illustrate it if you want.
- Tell this story: “There it was, finally. Our island. Our very own island. It looked beautiful above the waves of fog, but there was still one question to be answered: why had they sold it to us for only five dollars?”
- “When I stepped outside, the whole world smelled like...” Write a scene that starts with that line.
- Use these two lines of dialogue in a story: “What’s in your hand?” “It’s mine. I found it.”
- Write a story for children. Start with “Once upon a time” or “Long ago in a land far away.” Include a dragon, a deadly flower, and a mask.

•"Did she actually just say that?" Write a scene that includes this line.

•Create a story using words of one-syllable only, beginning with a phrase such as:

"The last time I saw her, she..."

"From the back of the truck..."

"On the night of the full moon..."

"The one thing I know for sure..."

•"What you don't know what hurt you." Write a story that begins with this statement.

•"That's not what I meant!" Write a story that has this line in it somewhere

•Pick one from each list to make a creature and animal combination.
Now write a short story or scene in which this creature appears.

List 1

Vampire
Ninja
Zombie
Pirate
Mummy
Clown
Banshee
Wraith

List 2

porcupine
armadillo
pig
goat
lobster
possum
shark
moray eel

