

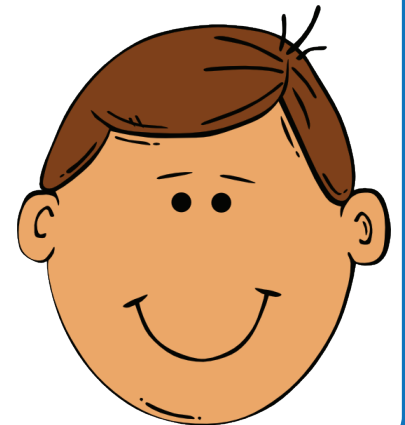
Story Starters

Check out how Michael Morpurgo starts his stories!

How does your favourite author start his or her stories?

I bet they never use “Once upon a time...” or “One sunny day”.

What interesting story starters can you think of?

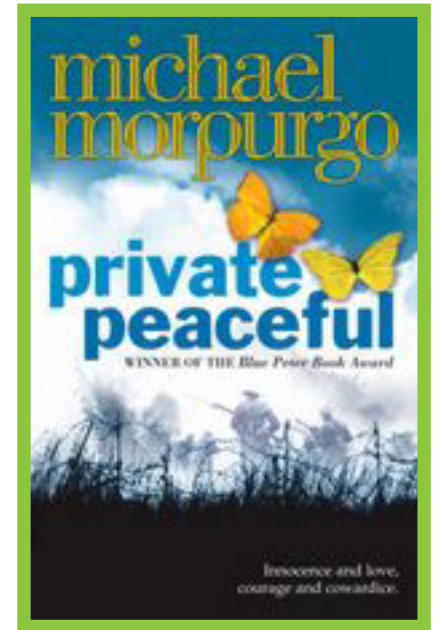


Present tense

‘They’ve gone now and I’m alone at last. I have the whole night ahead of me...’

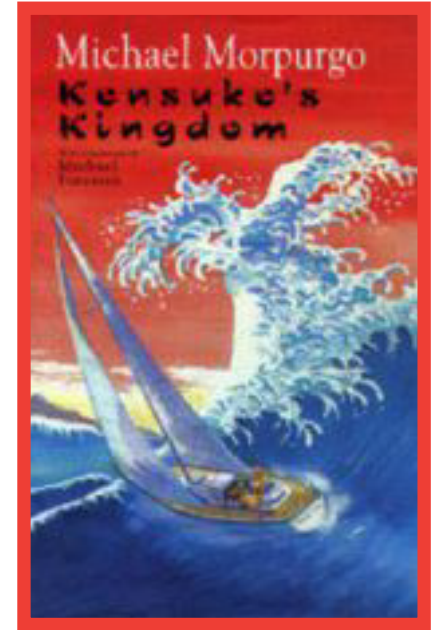
Starting your story by writing in the present tense is a great way to grab your readers. It makes them feel like they are there with you whilst your story is taking place.

Why not start your story by writing in the present tense?



Facts

‘I disappeared on the night before my twelfth birthday. July 28 1988.’



Using dates, times and names of places is a great way to start stories, especially if you want to write your story in the style of a ‘diary’ or retell important events.

Why not start your story by writing about an important event using facts?



Introduce an important object or person

‘I think a lot about Lucky, and I wish I didn’t, because Lucky’s dead.’



Lucky, the dog is a very important character in Michael Morpurgo’s story ‘Cool’.

Why not start by mentioning something that’s important to your story?



Introduce a character

‘I AM CALLED ASHLEY ANDERSON,
ASHLEY AFTER my mother’s father
so I was told, and Anderson after my
father of course...’



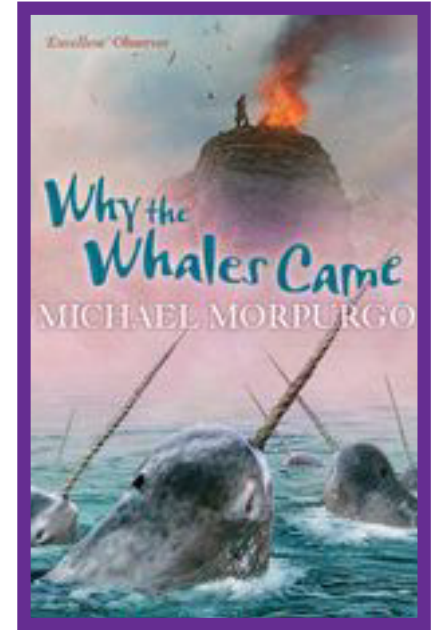
Another way to start your story is by
introducing a character from your story.

Why not start by sharing something
about your main character or let
them introduce themselves?



Speech

“YOU KEEP AWAY FROM THE BIRDMAN, GRACIE, my father had warned me often enough.”



An interesting way to start your story is with speech.

Why not let one of your characters start your story for you?

