

Name _____

Leads: How to Get the Story Going

Leads are the beginning sentences of a story. A lead is the first impression a reader receives about your story, and it is often the way a writer draws readers in and convinces them to read more.

Here are some of the kinds of leads you can choose from.

• A Place in Time

This is one of the most successful types of leads and among the most commonly used. In the opening paragraph the writer describes when or where the story will take place. Some common lines used in such a lead include: "Once upon a time. . ." "Long, long ago. . ." "One bright, sunny day. . ." or "In a land far, far away. . ."

• It All Begins Here

Another way to get the reader quickly involved in the story is to start off with an event or some kind of action. Examples of this type of lead include: "Smash! The window cracked, the wind howled, and the door flung open. . ." or "The two cars backed up into each other. . ."

• The Character

Beginning a story by having a character speaking, thinking, or doing something is another type of lead. You can select one of three different kinds of character leads: a character speaking, a character thinking, or a character doing something.

Can you identify which type of lead is being used?

"But I don't want to go to the store," moaned Millie, when her mom stepped into the room making the request.

• _____

It's always me that gets stuck doing all the jobs around here, Millie thought to herself when her mom asked her to go the store.

• _____

Millie put on her coat and hat and then slammed the door behind her as she left for the store. Once again her mom had asked her to do an errand.

• _____

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Leads: How to Get the Story Going (Part 2)

Now that you have learned about the possible leads a story can have, try and create five different leads for the same story. Here is a synopsis of the story:

On a rainy day, two boys are walking home from school when they see a hot air balloon come crashing down in the park just ahead of them.

Write a(n):

Place-in-Time Lead

It-All-Begins-Here Lead

Character-Talking Lead

Character-Thinking Lead

Character-Doing Lead
