



Activity 3: Opening Lines

Think how important the first line of a book is: it sets the scene, draws readers in, and invites you to carry on with the story.

Choosing three different CILIP Carnegie or Kate Greenaway Medal winning books, answer the following questions about the first lines of each story.

- Did this line set the tone for the rest of the story?
- Did it make you want to read on?
- What does the first line tell you about the type of book you're reading?
- Did it grab your attention immediately, or did it intrigue you?
- Do you think it's a good opener to the book? If not, how could it be improved?

Imagine you're writing a book called *A Child with No Name*.

What kind of story do you think this might be?
What would you choose as your opening line?

"The monster showed up just after midnight. As they do."

Extract from A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness, illustrated by Jim Kay, CILIP Carnegie Medal and CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal winner, 2012



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