

## BEGINNINGS

(some thoughts shared by author Lynn Plourde: [www.lynnplourde.com](http://www.lynnplourde.com))

(see a video on this topic at: <https://youtu.be/oCd5Tug4W40>)

To **write** better beginnings, you first need to study beginnings as a **reader**. Be a BEGINNING DETECTIVE! How? By gathering books—picture books, chapter books, middle grade novels, nonfiction texts, graphic novels—a whole stack and read **ONLY** the beginning of each book, the first 1-3 sentences.

### KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK

\*Which beginnings pull you in, make you want to keep reading?

\*Exactly **HOW** does the authors *hook* you?

### TYPES OF BEGINNINGS

Once upon a time...

Set a scene

Ask a question (that you want the answer to)

Present a problem

Intro quirky/interesting character

Jump into the middle of the action

???—What other types of beginnings did you find?

Try writing BEGINNINGS—only BEGINNINGS—don't worry about writing a whole story . . . yet!

Can you write a beginning for each type of beginning listed above?