

Opening	Questions you ask yourself	Why is the opening effective?
<p>"Honestly, Mrs Hadley," said Meggie McGregor, wiping her eyes. "That sense of humour of yours will be the death of me yet!"</p> <p>Jasmine Hadley allowed herself a rare giggle. "The things I tell you Meggie. It's lucky we're such good friends!"</p>		
<p>The boy with the fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way towards the lagoon. Though he had taken off his school sweater and trailed it now from one hand, his grey shirt stuck to him and his hair was plastered to his forehead. All round him the long scar smashed into the jungle was a bath of heat."</p>		
<p>When the doorbell rings at three in the morning, it's never good news.</p> <p>Alex Rider was woken by the first chime. His eyes flickered open but for a moment he stayed completely still in his bed, lying on his back with his head resting on the pillow. He heard a bedroom door open and a creak of wood as somebody went downstairs.</p>		
<p>It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. Winston Smith, his chin nuzzled into his chest in an effort to escape the vile wind, slipped quickly through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, though not enough to prevent a swirl of gritty dust from entering along with him.</p>		

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How has the author engaged the reader? Use these ideas to help you...

Makes the reader ask questions.

Dialogue to introduce and develop characters.

Short sentence for effect.

Gives clues.

Detail and description of a character.

Suggests that something bad is going to happen.

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<p>"Yes," said Tom bluntly, on opening the front door. "What d'you want?"</p> <p>A harassed middle-aged woman in a green coat and felt hat stood on his step. He glanced at the armband on her sleeve. She gave him an awkward smile.</p>		
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<p>I disappeared on the night before my twelfth birthday. July 28 1988. Only now can I at last tell the whole extraordinary story, the true story. Kensuke made me promise that I would say nothing, nothing at all, until at least ten years had passed.</p>		

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