

Writing Sizzling Starts

A story has about 60 seconds to grab the reader and make them want to keep turning the pages. So your story has to start with action. Yet why does so much writing start at the beginning of the day - when nothing really happens?

Encourage your children to begin their writing at “the moment of change” - the point in the story where something is happening. Keep encouraging them to “ban the boring!” (Once upon a time; On the weekend; On Tuesday...) and begin their writing with dialogue, sound or action.

TopTip: Start where the action is, not at the beginning of the day where nothing is happening. Begin when the volcano starts oozing lava or as you walk in the door to the big disco competition.

Sizzling Starts examples

<u>Dialogue</u> (talking) “Wake up!” my mum shouted.	<u>Sounds Effect</u> (onomatopoeia) “Brrrring!” rang the alarm.
<u>Ask a Question</u> Have you ever been late on the first day of school?	<u>Action</u> (exciting verbs) I jumped out of bed, raced to the cupboard and threw on an outfit.

A great way to get the brain buzzing and the ideas flowing is to challenge students to write five starts in five minutes. (Yes, it is possible, and fun too!) You will give them 1 minute to write a quick fast start to each topic, starting at the moment of change.

(An alternative to writing would be to get your child to tell you a great sizzling sentence that could start the story).

Here are some story ideas that never fail:

- Lunchtime fun
- Learning to ride a bike
- Playing with a pet
- Almost getting caught
- How your phone works
- How to dance
- A theme park
- Importance of washing your hands
- Why my mum and dad are the greatest
- Mornings are better than evenings



Topic: _____

Fast Start

Topic: _____

Fast Start

Topic: _____

Fast Start

Topic: _____

Fast Start

Topic: _____

Fast Start
