

Name: _____

Date: _____

Engaging Beginnings Practice

The Hunger Games

Hunger Games: Book One

By: Suzanne Collins

When I wake up, the other side of the bed is cold. My fingers stretch out, seeking Prim's warmth but finding only the rough canvas cover of the mattress. She must have had bad dreams and climbed in with our mother. Of course, she did. This is the day of the reaping.

Questions to discuss:

- What strategy does the author use to hook the reader?
- What does the reader learn about point of view in the beginning?
- What does the reader learn about the characters in the beginning?
- What does the reader learn about the conflict in the beginning?

First-Day Fly

By: Jason Reynolds

There are only two days that matter to you. Two days that count. Your birthday, which is like a million days away, and tomorrow, which is the first day of school. And normally you don't like school. Because there's not much to like about it. The hallways always smell funny, and they don't do nothing but lead you to teachers. And teachers don't do nothing but remind you that they already got their education and now it's time for you to get yours right before telling you to head back down the hallway to the principal's office because you can't stop talking about how Thomas Baker stepped on your foot with his dirty boots and turned your sneaker into a construction site.

Questions to discuss:

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The Lightning Thief

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: Book One

By: Rick Riordan

Look, I didn't want to be a half-blood.

If you're reading this because you think you might be one, my advice is: close this book right now. Believe whatever lie your mom or dad told you about your birth, and try to lead a normal life.

Being a half-blood is dangerous. It's scary. Most of the time, it gets you killed in painful, nasty ways.

If you're a normal kid, reading this because you think it's fiction, great. Read on. I envy you for being able to believe that none of this ever happened.

But if you recognize yourself in these pages—if you feel something stirring inside—stop reading immediately. You might be one of us. And once you know that, it's only a matter of time before they sense it too, and they'll come for you.

Don't say I didn't warn you.

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The Bad Beginning

A Series of Unfortunate Events: Book One

By: Lemony Snicket

If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book. In this book, not only is there no happy ending, there is no happy beginning and very few happy things in the middle.

Questions to discuss:

- What strategy does the author use to hook the reader?
- What does the reader learn about point of view in the beginning?
- What does the reader learn about the characters in the beginning?
- What does the reader learn about the conflict in the beginning?

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Harry Potter: Book One

By: J. K. Rowling

Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. They were the last people you'd expect to be involved in anything strange or mysterious, because they just didn't hold with such nonsense.

Questions to discuss:

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- What does the reader learn about point of view in the beginning?
- What does the reader learn about the characters in the beginning?
- What does the reader learn about the conflict in the beginning?