

The Opening

4 Types of Story Openings

Scene

Statement

Summary

Description

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Scene

My hand drummed against the gear shift impatiently. Sweat trickled down my brow as I waited for the AC to kick in. A quick glance in the rear view mirror showed Josh slumped over in the back seat. Seconds later, Parker slipped into the passenger seat, slamming the door behind him.

He exhaled, hard. "I guess we better head."

4 Types of Story Openings

Scene

Statement

I am prone to car problems. I know it's silly, because everyone has their fair share of car problems, but I always run into issues at the worst times. I have been on many road trips, most of which have ended in an empty gas tank, low oil, or a flat tire. Luckily, I have Zach to fix the error of my ways.

That wasn't going to be an option this time.

4 Types of Story Openings

Scene

Statement

Summary

Every summer, a weekend at Palisades means a weekend filled with washer-toss tournaments, excessive amounts of food, late nights stargazing, and floats down the river.

Heading home after a weekend with family and friends is always painfully uneventful.

But last year, the chaos that Palisades brings left the park with us.

4 Types of Story Openings

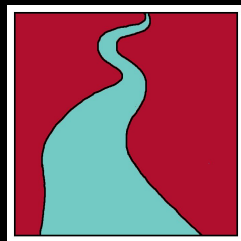
Scene

Statement

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Feeling emotionally drained and utterly helpless, I leaned against the counter at the gas station as my dad inquired about a local mechanic. As my gaze wandered out the clouded windowpane, my eyes settled on an discouraging sight. My stomach dropped. The intense green stared back at me, taunting me.



The Ending

Checklist for a Good Ending

1. Is the main conflict resolved?

Even if it's not a happy ending, the most pressing conflict should be over for the most part.

In my story, the conflict is that I needed to fill my car up with gas. By the end of the story, I have a fresh tank of gas and am able to head home. That conflict has been resolved.

Checklist for a Good Ending

1. Is the main conflict resolved?

2. Are the other loose ends tied up?

Other things might happen in your story that need to be wrapped up by the time you're done. In my story, I address the fact that we are stranded at the gas station over supper time, and everyone is getting hungry. By the end, I should explain that I resolved this by buying everyone a bunch of gas station food.

Checklist for a Good Ending

1. Is the main conflict resolved?
2. Are the other loose ends tied up?
- 3. Do we get a glimpse of how things will be different now?**

In a good story, something should change by the end; make sure your readers can tell what that is. In my story, by the end I have grown to appreciate my family and friends and all they do for me.

5 Types of Story Endings

Summary

Description

Gesture

Dialogue

Interior Monologue

5 Types of Story Endings

Summary

After that experience, I didn't trust myself to fill up my own car with gas. I eventually had to give in, but I am much more conscientious now. As a matter of fact, I have learned to laugh at myself for what happened. While it was certainly an inconvenient experience, I can use it to bring laughter to others.

5 Types of Story Endings

Summary

Description

As I crawled into bed that night, I chuckled to myself at the thought of my chaotic evening. I pulled the covers up tight, feeling safe and warm in my own bed. I closed my eyes and drifted to sleep in the comfort of knowing that I have family and friends that love me, despite the avoidable mess I caused.

5 Types of Story Endings

Summary

Description

Gesture

The moment finally arrived; we had the clear to leave the gas station with a fresh tank of gas. Yes, gas—for sure this time. Josh gave me a knowing nod as he headed to the drivers side door, and I flopped into the passenger seat. As Parker piled into the back seat, there was a brief silence followed by an eruption of laughter. With a chuckle and a shake of the head, Josh started the ignition. It purred like a kitten as we drove away. I looked out the window, sending a half-hearted two-finger salute to Zach as he passed..

5 Types of Story Endings

Summary

Description

Gesture

Dialogue

For a second, I replayed in my mind the moment I had realized my mistake. In that moment, I took it all in. The smell of the gas and diesel, the glow of the gas station lights, and shuffling of Zach's jacket as he prepared to get back on his motorcycle. Mindlessly, I turned toward the Forester that awaited me.

I looked back at him. "Let's get out of here."

5 Types of Story Endings

Summary

Description

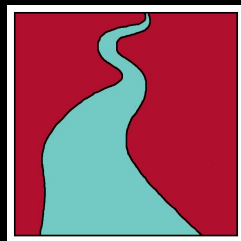
Gesture

Dialogue

Interior
Monologue

For a second, I pictured myself back at that gas station, alone, without my family and friends. I felt a twinge of panic at the very idea of having to go through that experience by myself. With a quick reality check, I breathed a sigh of relief.

It's over. I'm just fine.



The Title

Story Titles

Short

Hoot

Fish Cheeks

Wonder

Everyday Use

Monster

Everything, Everything

The Bet

Story Titles

Short

A Monster Calls

I Go Along

Medium

The Maze Runner

Superman and Me

The Yellow Wallpaper

I Am Number Four

The Things They Carried

Story Titles

Short

A Clean, Well-Lighted Place

Medium

One of Us Is Lying

Long

A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings

A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime

Your Title: What Gets Capitalized?

- **first** and **last word** of the title
- short verbs like **be**, **am**, **is**, and **was**
- all words that are four letters long or longer

What Does NOT Get Capitalized?

- **articles** (a, an, the)
- **conjunctions** (and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet)
- **prepositions** that are 3 or fewer letters (at, by, for, in, of, off, on, to)

(unless these words are the first or last word of the title)

The Yellow Wallpaper

Superman and Me

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime

I Am Number Four

Check Your Understanding

diary of a wimpy kid

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Check Your Understanding

the lion, the witch, and the
wardrobe

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Check Your Understanding

frog and toad are friends

Frog and Toad Are Friends

NOW:

- Try some of these opening styles with your own story until you find one that you like best.
- Try some of the five ending styles with your own story until you find one that you like best. If you want more ideas, look at other stories and see how the authors chose to end them.
- Experiment with long and short titles to see what you come up with.