Grade 5 English Language Arts Week of November 16 – November 20

Lesson 4: You're the Author – Starting Your Story

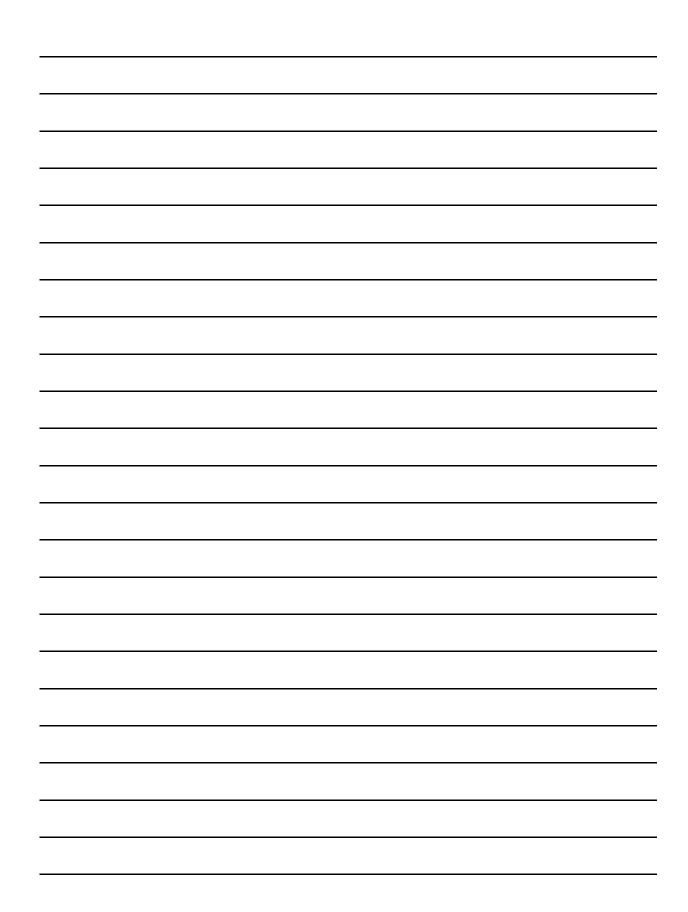
You may complete the remaining steps on the computer or on paper. If you complete the steps on the computer, be sure to label and save each step of the process.

Starting Your Story

Who! Where! When! You want to hook the reader in with first paragraph. There are all sorts of way you can draw the reader in. You can use detailed and descriptive writing. You can hint at exciting adventure soon to come. You can write something funny that makes the reader laugh and want to read more. Check out some examples on the next page that show beginning lines from popular books.

In the exposition, you want to make sure you describe your main character(s) and the setting. Write in sentences and paragraph format. It does not have to be perfect - you will edit and revise once the story is done.

Who! Where! When! Catch the reader's interest! Think of an interesting, exciting or funny way to start your story. Describe the main character(s) and the setting. Write in sentences using paragraph format.	_



Starting Your Story Example



Take a look at how some well-known children's books start off:

"Once on a dark winter's day, when the yellow fog hung so thick and heavy in the streets of London that the lamps were lighted and the shop windows blazed with gas as they do at night, an odd-looking little girl sat in a cab with her father and was driven rather slowly through the big thoroughfares."

A Little Princess, Frances Hodgson Burnett

"Mr. and Mrs. Brown first met Paddington on a railway platform. In fact, that was how he came to have such an unusual name for a bear, for Paddington was the name of the station."

Paddington Bear, Michael Bond

"Down in the valley there were three farms. The owners of these farms had done well. They were rich men. They were also nasty men. All three of them were about as nasty and mean as any men you could meet. Their names were Farmer Boggis, Farmer Bunce and Farmer Bean."

Fantastic Mr Fox, Roald Dahl

"Carrie had often dreamed about coming back. In her dreams she was twelve years old again; short, scratched legs in red socks and scuffed, brown sandals, walking along the narrow, dirt path at the side of the railway line to where it plunged down, off the high ridge, through the Druid's Grove."

Carrie's War, Nina Bawden