

Never Judge A Book By It's Cover



The opening paragraph of a book is probably one of the most important that an author can write. Read over the selected opening paragraphs below,

"Here, man, come an' have a deck at the hole in Ken's arm. Show 'em your arm, Ken! Theo Julien was trying to work up a crowd in the schoolyard like a market-stall man in Thames Reach - with Kaninda Mulumba his stock-in-trade. 'Come on, Ken, give 'em a show!'" (Little Soldier by Bernard Ashley).

"Mickey Bigg was jiggling about nervously in the driver's seat of the stolen Range Rover like a jack-in-a-box on a caffeine spree." (Diamond Geezers by Echo Freer).

"I suppose in some ways it was a bit of an unfortunate coincidence that I should be kidnapped on the same day as Benny Spinks." (The Great Switcheroonie by Alex Shearer).

"The boy crept up to the fence and looked around. There was the familiar sign...

KEEP OUT!

PRIVATE PROPERTY.

TRESPASSERS WILL BE SHOT.

And hanging next to it, just to make sure that the message was clearly understood, were the bodies of several dead animals. Strung up like criminals, wire twisted round their broken necks." (Silverfin by Charlie Higson).

"Freya woke early and lay for a while in the dark, feeling her city shiver and sway beneath her as its powerful engines sent it skimming across the ice. Sleepily, she waited for her servants to come and help her out of bed. It took her a few moments to remember that they were all dead." (Predators Gold by Philip Reeve).

"I had to get her out, that was the main thing. Annie, that is - my sister. When I saw her lying on the kitchen floor, mistress towering over her and Annie all white and still, something cold went through me, like a shadow." (The Whispering Road by Livi Michael).

Now that you have read the opening paragraphs have a think about what sort of stories they might have come from, for example, a mystery story. Imagine that you are an author who has just started to write your next blockbuster novel and on a separate piece of paper write down what genre of book you are writing and write the opening paragraph of your book.



Once you have written the opening paragraph design a book cover for your book using the template below.

