

Get Your Reader's Attention

When you write a story, you want to interest a reader in your setting, plot, and characters. To make readers keep reading, you must **get your reader's interest** from the start. Here are some ways.

- Write a catchy title that puts questions in your reader's mind. To answer the questions, the reader must read your story.
 - Begin with a strong opening sentence. It might create a vivid image or state an interesting fact.
 - Create suspense. Don't tell all the important facts at the beginning. Give clues about the important events. Make your reader curious about what will happen.
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Directions Tell how the following sentences get a reader's attention.

1. The sky was as dark as ink, with no moon and no stars. We looked nervously at the sky and then at one another. Would we find what we had come for in this strange place?

The first sentence creates a vivid image. The next two sentences create suspense by making readers ask questions such as *Who is we? Where are they? What have they gone there for?*

Directions Complete each item below. **Possible answers:**

2. You are writing a story about coming face to face with a bear in the woods. Write a title that will get your reader's attention.

A Grizzly Experience

3. You are writing a story about an exciting boat trip on rough waters. Write an opening sentence that will get your reader's attention.

As huge waves of foamy water washed over my head, I tried to recall how I had gotten myself into this mess.

4. You are writing a story about hearing strange sounds while you are camping in your backyard. Write two sentences that will create suspense for your reader.

A loud knock, knock, knock sounded five feet above my head. Meanwhile, the bushes near the fence crackled and rustled as if a wild animal was barging into the yard.
