

Class Recap: Writing the Perfect Beginning

Today we focused on crafting a powerful opening for your fairy tale! A great beginning is like a hook—it grabs the reader's attention right away.

We learned that every strong beginning needs three essential elements:

1. A Hook: This is the catchy opening phrase or vivid first sentence.
 - Example: "Once upon a time..." or "High above the clouds, a forgotten castle drifted..."
2. A Character: Introduce who your story is about. Give them a name and a key trait.
 - Example: "...lived a nervous young baker named Elias."
3. A Setting: Describe where and when the story is taking place using descriptive words (adjectives and adverbs). Use your senses!
 - Example: "...in a misty, moss-covered village where the air always smelled faintly of cinnamon."

Homework: Modern Fairy Tale Twist (Unit Project Part 1)

Goal: Write a strong, descriptive beginning (2-3 paragraphs) for a new or twisted fairy tale.

Instructions: Choose one of the options below and write your beginning. Focus on making your setting and character introduction as detailed as possible.

Option	Task
Option 1: Modern Twist	Choose a classic tale (like <i>Cinderella</i> or <i>Jack and the Beanstalk</i>) and rewrite the first 2-3 paragraphs with a modern twist . (e.g., The Giant's castle is an automated flying drone; the magic bean is a computer virus.)
Option 2: Original Creation	Write a completely original beginning for a new fairy tale, introducing a new magical character and a new unique setting.

Length: Did you write **2 to 3 full paragraphs**?

Hook: Does your first sentence grab the reader's attention?

Character: Did you introduce a main character with a **name**?

Trait: Did you give your character a specific **trait** (brave, nervous, clever)?

Setting: Did you clearly describe the **location**?

Description: Did you use at least **three strong adjectives/adverbs** (not just "good" or "big") to make your setting vivid?

Genre: Does your writing feel like the beginning of a **fairy tale**?

Need a quick idea? Try starting a story about a grumpy talking cat who lives inside a magical, sparkling vending machine!



Ms. Martocello

Ms. Martocello
schoolnova.org | martocello@schoolnova.org