

KS3 English Language Fiction Writing: Openings

Read these openings from famous works of literature and then fill in the table, one column at a time.

Opening	Questions you ask yourself	How the opening is effective?
<p>'It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. Winston Smith, his chin nuzzled into his breast in an effort to escape the vile wind, slipped quickly through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, though not quickly enough to prevent a swirl of gritty dust from entering along with him.'</p> <p>1984 by George Orwell</p>		
<p>'The sun does not go down.</p> <p>This is the first thing that Eric Seven notices about Blessed Island. There will be many other strange things that he will notice, before the forgetting takes hold of him, but that will come later.'</p> <p>Midwinterblood by Marcus Sedgwick</p>		
<p>'Marley was dead: to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that.'</p> <p>A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens</p>		
<p>'I've read many more books than you. It doesn't matter how many you've read. I've read more. Believe me. I've had the time.'</p> <p>Everything Everything by Nicola Yoon</p>		



<p>'The boy with the fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way towards the lagoon. Though he had taken off his school sweater and trailed it now from one hand, his grey shirt stuck to him and his hair was plastered to his forehead. All round him the long scar smashed into the jungle was a bath of heat.'</p> <p>Lord of the Flies by William Golding</p>		
<p>"Honestly, Mrs Hadley," said Meggie McGregor, wiping her eyes. "That sense of humour of yours will be the death of me yet!"</p> <p>Jasmine Hadley allowed herself a rare giggle. "The things I tell you Meggie. It's lucky we're such good friends!"</p> <p>Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman</p>		
<p>'It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.'</p> <p>Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen</p>		