

The Youth Desk

Boys Club: Opening Lines Balloon Pop

Print and cut the following opening lines from children's books into strips. Tightly roll each strip and place it in a balloon. Blow up and tie off each balloon. Instruct the boys to pop two balloons by sitting on them and then choose their favorite of the two opening lines to read aloud.

Where's Papa going with that axe?

- Charlotte's Web By E.B. White

"These two very old people are the father and mother of Mr. Bucket."

- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory By Roald Dahl

"A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood."

- The Gruffalo By Julia Donaldson

"There was a boy called Eustace, Clarence Scrubb, and he almost deserved it."

- The Voyage of the Dawn Treader By C.S. Lewis

"In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit."

- The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

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“Kidnapping children is never a good idea; all the same, sometimes it has to be done.”

- Island of the Aunts By Eva Ibbotson

“There is no lake at Camp Green Lake.”

- Holes by Louis Sachar

“On the morning I was scheduled to die a large barefoot man with a bushy red beard waddled past my house.”

- Seven Wonders Book 1: The Colossus Rises By Peter Lerangis

“First of all, let me get something straight: this is a journal, not a diary.”

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid By Jeff Kinney

“The Herdmans were absolutely the worst kids in the history of the world.”

- The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson

“If your teacher has to die, August isn’t a bad time of year for it.”

- The Teacher’s Funeral by Richard Peck

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“If you are interested in stories with happy endings you would be better off reading some other book.”

- A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket

“Things are a lot different around here since that Unicorn moved in.”

- Unicorn Thinks He’s Pretty Great By Bob Shea

“Mr. and Mrs. Dursley of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much.”

- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone by J. K. Rowling

“In the great, green room.”

- Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown

“Look, I didn’t want to be a half-blood.”

- The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

“We have only a few hours, so listen carefully. If you’re hearing this story, you’re already in danger.”

- The Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan

“When the doorbell rings at three in the morning, it’s never good news.”

- Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz

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“There was a hand in the dark, and it held a knife.”

- The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

“For many days we had been tempest-tossed...the raging storm increased in fury until on the seventh day all hope was lost.”

- The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann Wyss

“The sun did not shine, it was too wet to play, so we sat in the house all that cold, cold wet day.”

- The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss

“The first place that I can well remember was a large pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it.”

- Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

“All children, except one, grow up.”

- Peter Pan by J. M. Barrie

“The Mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring-cleaning his little home.”

- The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Graham

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“Chug, chug, chug. Puff, puff, puff. Ding-dong, ding-dong.”
- The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper

“Most motorcars are conglomerations (this is a long word for bundles) of steel and wire and rubber and plastic, and electricity and oil and gasoline and water, and the toffee papers you pushed down the crack in the back seat last Sunday.”
- Chitty Chitty Bang Bang by Ian Fleming

“Once there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmond, and Lucy.”
- The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis

“It was an afternoon in late September. In the pleasant city of Stillwater, Mr. Popper, the house painter, was going home from work.”
- Mr. Popper’s Penguins by Richard & Florence Atwater

“One sunny Sunday, the caterpillar was hatched out of a tiny egg.”
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

“I won Dribble at Jimmy Fargo’s birthday party.”
- Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume

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“A long time ago, when all the grandfathers and grandmothers of today were little boys and little girls or very small babies, or perhaps not even born, Pa and Ma and Mary and Laura and Baby Carrie left their little house in the Big Woods of Wisconsin.”

- Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder

“Walking back to camp through the swamp, Sam wondered whether to tell his father what he had seen.”

- The Trumpet of the Swan by E. B. White

“The towers of Zenith aspired above the morning mist; austere towers of steel and cement and limestone, sturdy as cliffs and delicate as silver rods.”

- Babbit by Sinclair Lewis

“Hey, Geekoid!” yelled Duncan Dougal as he snatched Peter Thompson’s book out of his hand.

- My Teacher is an Alien by Bruce Coville

“IF YOU ASKED the kids and the teachers at Lincoln Elementary School to make three lists—all the really bad kids, all the really smart kids, and all the really good kids—Nick Allen would not be on any of them.”

- Frindle by Andrew Clements

“None of this stuff would have happened if I hadn’t been sitting next to Matthew Diaz.”

- The Worst Class Trip Ever by Dave Barry

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“FOR A LONG TIME AFTER THAT SUMMER, the four Penderwick sisters still talked of Arundel.”

- *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy* by Jeanne Birdsall

“Most of the time John Midas was a very nice boy.”

- *The Chocolate Touch* by Patrick Skene Catling

“THAT’S THE SIXTH KNOCK THIS MORNING. I WISH I lived in a cave!”

- *Handbook for Dragon Slayers* by Merrie Haskell