Adapted from http://www.npr.org/2007/06/25/11260800/great-opening-lines-to-hook-young-readers, http://www.writersdigest.com/editor-blogs/there-are-norules/famous-first-lines-learn-how-to-start-a-novel, and https://www.buzzfeed.com/harpercollins/16-of-the-best-opening-lines-from-childrens-books-9npd?utm_term=.ms3GXE6r31#.bu08DrNd5P

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

"I have been accused of being anal retentive, an overachiever, and a compulsive perfectionist, like those are bad things." Millicent Min, Girl Genius by Lisa Yee

"Ma, a mouse has to do what a mouse has to do." Ragweed by Avi

"We went to the moon to have fun, but the moon turned out to completely suck." - Feed by M.T. Anderson

"Wemberly worried about everything." - Wemberly Worried by Kevin Henkes

"I come from a family with a lot of dead people." Each Little Bird That Sings by Deborah Wiles

"When the doorbell rings at three in the morning, it's never good news." Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz

"If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth."

-J.D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye

"Behind every man now alive stand thirty ghosts, for that is the ratio by which the dead outnumber the living."

—Arthur C. Clarke, 2001: A Space Odyssey



"This is a tale of a meeting of two lonesome, skinny, fairly old white men on a planet which was dying fast." —Kurt Vonnegut, Breakfast of Champions

"In the town there were two mutes, and they were always together." – Carson McCuller, The Heart is a Lonely Matter

"It was a queer, sultry summer, the summer they electrocuted the Rosenbergs, and I didn't know what I was doing in New York." – Sylvia Plath, The Bell Jar

"I am an invisible man." – Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man

"'Where's Papa going with that axe?' said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast." – E.B. White, Charlotte's Web

"There was a hand in the darkness, and it held a knife." – Neil Gaiman, The Graveyard Book

"On the morning I was scheduled to die, a large barefoot man with a bushy red beard waddled past my house." – Peter Lerangis, Seven Wonders Book 1: The Colossus Rises

HOOKING YOUR READER

