**Engaging Ways to Start a Story**

One of the most important parts of a piece of creative writing is the beginning. It is an important first impression that can make your reader continue, or put your story down.

**Ways to Start**

* Begin in the middle of the action, not the literal beginning of the story. You can fill in details as you go along.
  + I was caught. Face down, feet tied and nowhere to go.
* Begin with dialogue.
  + "I dare you to stay there past midnight," my brother said.
* Begin with a single word or sentence fragment.
  + Me? Scared?
* Begin with something that leaves the reader wondering.
  + There was a sound in the basement, and I knew it wasn't just a mouse.
* Begin with description.
  + The cold, worn steps to the basement groaned as I stepped softly downwards; overcome by the pungent smell emitting from below I raised my hand to cover my nose.

**Remember**: Your ending should always link back to your beginning!

**Other Ways to Start (list class brainstorm here):**