

Pick Up Lines That Work: Powerful Openings In YA Books

Summary

You know the moment. The one where you take a step forward, your gut churning, your heart racing... "Hello," you say. Then the moment is upon you, that instant in time when you have to hold the other person's attention and gain their interest with only a handful of words.

When we pick up a book for the first time, we have a similar decision to make. Often, we make our decisions not based on a pick up line, but instead on the opening paragraphs of a potential read. Do we want to get involved with this book? Develop a relationship with its characters? Join young adult authors, Joshua David Bellin, Patricia Harrison Easton, Stephanie Keyes, Carla Mooney, and Leah Pileggi as they explore what makes readers want to turn to page two. Bring along your favorite book to share!

Agenda

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| 7:00PM | <i>Introductions</i> | Library Staff |
| 7:05PM | <i>Opening</i> | Stephanie Keyes |
| 7:10PM | <i>Core Components of great opening paragraphs.</i> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your protagonist. First scenes should always showcase the protagonist, aka the main character.• A catalyst or incident. Great opening paragraphs start out with a bang. What's the inciting incident that drives the main character?• What does the protagonist need? Identifying a protagonist's core need. | Joshua Bellin
Pat Easton
Leah Pileggi/Mooney |
| 7:40PM | <i>Exercise</i> | All |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Audience will break into groups. We will have a selection of books available for them to choose from. They will discuss opening paragraphs within their groups and the share with the broader audience.• Authors will float between groups and facilitate the broader group discussion. | |
| 8:00PM | <i>General Q&A</i> | Authors |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We'll pass a basket around with for questions at the beginning of the session. A moderator should be available to questions.• Authors available for panel questions. | |
| 8:15PM | <i>Signings</i> | Authors |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authors will sign books after the event.• We could use assistants for each of the authors—just in case they can't bring anyone with them. | |

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Resources

If possible, please have the following titles available at the event. The authors can bring their own copies if these titles are not in stock.

Abandon, by Meg Cabot

Beautiful Creatures, by Kami Garcia, Margaret Stohl

Before I Fall, by Lauren Oliver

Burn Out, by Kristi Helvig

Dacey's Song, by Cynthia Voigt

Eva, by Peter Dickenson

Fat Kid Rules the World, by K.L. Going

Gringolandia, by Lyn Miller-Lachmann

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, by J.K. Rowling

Holes, by Louis Sachar

iBoy by Kevin Brooks

Need by Carrier Jones

Nil, by Lynne Matson

Out of the Dust, by Karen Hesse

Phoenix Island, John Dixon

Pobby and Dingan, by Ben Rice

Quest For a Maid, by Mary Frances Hendey

Speak, by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Book of Dreams, by O.R. Melling

The Raven Boys, by Maggie Stiefvater

The Secret Garden, by Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender, Leslye Walton

The Yearling, by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

Thirteen Reasons Why, by Jay Asher

Wintergirls, by Laurie Halse Anderson