

YEAR 9 WRITING

Creating a good opening.

This is the blurb to a book for children:

It is in September, this year, that Paul and Madge are meeting at their grandmother's, as they have every summer since they can remember. They have never come so late. The leaves of Goldengrove will be turning gold in earnest, but that is not a reason why anything should be different, and surely the boat will be there to play in (but never sail) and this time maybe they will be able to persuade Jeremy to take them round the lighthouse, out to Godrevy. Everything will be the same as it has always been.

Or will it?

Write the opening chapter, which for some strange reason is very short in this book, being just over four hundred words long.

Use these planning boxes to help: you can ignore ideas here or even add your own own if you want. In fact, you almost certainly can't use all these ideas in this short piece!

Things revealed (strip)	Things withheld (tease)
Paul arrives on the train.	We do not know precisely how old Paul and Madge are (though Grandmother tells them they are too old to share a room now).
Madge arrives on the same train, without having know that Paul was on it.	There is a lighthouse which seems important but we don't know why.
Grandmother lives in the house: she enjoys sitting on the terrace looking out to sea.	The rooms seem interesting, but we can't work out how big the house really is or where exactly it is, although it's obviously almost on a beach, probably in Cornwall.
Madge likes Paul.	We do not know if Paul likes Madge in the same way.