

Sentence Beginnings

Sentence beginnings are important because they can be used to grab the reader’s attention and make them want to continue reading the story. They can also set the mood and feeling of the story. Fairytales such as *The Little Mermaid* often start with the words *Once upon a time...* These words tell the reader that they are reading a fairytale.

Write some other common sentence beginnings in stories you have read.

Look at other sentences in the story and write down the ones you think have good beginnings that grab your attention or set the mood. Here is one to start with –

That very year, one sister turned 15 and rose up to the surface.

On a separate sheet of paper, try to write some interesting sentence beginnings of your own. Read them to your partner to see what they think.

25g The Little Mermaid

Name _____

Throughout this story there are many bargains struck whereby one character trades with another. Reread the book, then complete the table and questions below. The first one has been done for you.

Character 1	Character 2	Trade
Little Mermaid	Sea Witch	Magic potion for beautiful voice

Which one of these do you think was the most difficult bargain?

Would you have done what these characters did?

Were there any winners in these bargains?

25g The Little Mermaid

Name _____

Now that you have read some different fairytales, you can see that some fairytales share certain characteristics. Complete this table about the fairytales you have read. You may add or change characteristics.

	The Little Mermaid	Fairytale 2	Fairytale 3
Beginning words			
Setting			
Characters			
Villain			
Victim			
Hero			
Problem			
Magic			
Solution			
Ending			

On a separate sheet of paper, write your own fairytale including some or all of the fairytale characteristics.