



## Module Three

### Task: Write a strong beginning

What makes a strong start to your story?

In writing class, you are usually told: drop into the action as soon as possible. In school, they teach kids about 'sizzling starts' - start with a bang! Literally, in some cases.

The point of all this is: don't spend too long on set-up and backstory. By all means, do your backstory as character research. Get to know who your character is and what drives them. But you don't have to put all this into your story. Only include what is relevant and interesting for this particular story.

In picture books, you can summarise the backstory in just a line or two. Try your best to keep it to a page or two at the most.

Some examples:

**I Want My Hat Back** by Jon Klassen: *My hat is gone. I want it back.*

**Archie and the Bear** by Zanni Louise and David Mackintosh: *Archie was a bear. But everywhere Archie went, people patted him on the head and said, 'I like your bear suit.' 'It's not a suit,' Archie would growl.*

Take a look at your point of view assignment from Module Two. Now, summarise this experience in as few words as you can.

