

The Story Starter Shed

<https://www.literacyshed.com/story-starters.html>

Instructions: Choose a story starter from the list below. Write a short narrative using your chosen starter to begin the first paragraph. Check over your work before completing the self-assessment checklist.

1. I didn't mean to kill her.
2. The air turned black all around me.
3. Icy fingers gripped my arm in the darkness.
4. Wandering through the graveyard it felt like something was watching me.
5. The eyes in the painting follow him down the corridor.
6. A shrill cry echoed in the mist
7. Icy wind slashed at his face and the rain danced its evil dance upon his head as he tried to get his bearings on the isolated beach.
8. Footsteps slowly creaked on every step of the stairs. The bedroom door handle turned slowly.
9. Death lurked in every door way with hell at one dark window. (Inspired by A. Noyes 'The Highwayman')
10. My hair stood on end, a shiver raced down my spine and a lump came to my throat. It was him...

Self-Assessment Checklist (Genre: Narrative)

I can:

- understand the purpose and audience
- include a beginning/opening which grabs the reader's attention and makes them want to read further
- with detail, describe the atmosphere, setting and characters- what do they do and say and what type of person are they
- describe the main events in a sequenced order (characters' thoughts, feelings, actions and reactions, views and opinions)
- add events which happen because of the main events
- use a variety of adjectives – shape, colour, size, number, texture
- use action verbs – jumped, escaped
- use figurative language such as similes, metaphors, alliteration etc.
- use punctuation for direct speech and dialogue to tell more about the main events/characters - their thoughts and feelings
- include an ending which brings the events to a conclusion (may be an unexpected twist or turn or leaves the reader wanting more.)