

Year 4
Activity 2

To edit and improve a
story opening

My story opening

Far away in an icy country, where the forests are dense and dark, there once lived a farmer called Alek. He was so poor that the violent wind sneaked in through the cracks in the door and the snow slipped through the wide holes in the roof. Sadly, he was so poor that his little, old mother sat in her bed with a pointy icicle suspended from her cold nose!



In activity 1, we looked at expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials and adventurous vocabulary. I have removed these from my opening on the next page. What do you think to my opening now?

My story opening

There once lived a farmer called Alek. He was so poor that the wind went in through the cracks in the door and the snow fell through the holes in the roof. He was so poor that his mother sat in her bed with a icicle hanging from her nose!



Is this an interesting story opening?

My story opening

There once lived a farmer called Alek. He was so poor that the wind went in through the cracks in the door and the snow fell through the holes in the roof. He was so poor that his mother sat in her bed with a icicle hanging from her nose!



Today we are going to follow some steps to edit and improve this opening to make a different story opener to mine.

Step 1 - Opening sentence

There once lived a farmer called Alek. He was so poor that the wind went in through the cracks in the door and the snow fell through the holes in the roof. He was so poor that his mother sat in her bed with a icicle hanging from her nose!



Think of 3 different opening sentences.
You could edit mine or think of your own.

Eg. Far away in an icy country, where the forests are dense and dark, there once lived a farmer called Alek.

Can be changed to

Long ago in a frozen city, where the countryside is vast and dangerous, there lived a hard-working farmer called Mika.

Step 2 - Expanded noun phrases

There once lived a farmer called Alek. He was so poor that the wind went in through the cracks in the door and the snow fell through the holes in the roof. He was so poor that his mother sat in her bed with a icicle hanging from her nose!



Think of 3 expanded noun phrases you could include

Eg. the snow

Can be changed to
the frost, glistening snow.

Step 3 - Adventurous vocabulary

There once lived a farmer called Alek. He was so poor that the wind went in through the cracks in the door and the snow fell through the holes in the roof. He was so poor that his mother sat in her bed with a icicle hanging from her nose!



Choose 3 boring words - think of 3 synonyms you could use (words that mean the same)

Eg. hanging

Can be changed to

dangling, suspended, drooping

Challenge - Short burst write

There once lived a farmer called Alek. He was so poor that the wind went in through the cracks in the door and the snow fell through the holes in the roof. He was so poor that his mother sat in her bed with a icicle hanging from her nose!



Use your learning to write your own story opening for the 'King of the Wild Horses' story.