

Episode 2: I don't really like that, Miss'

1 Ms Leigh: okay
2 Terry is going to be the narrator for the moment
3 and
4 whatever Pupil 1 says
5 as the narrator
6 the opening sentence
7 is how our story begins
8 go for it
9 Terry: I was walking down the road one day
10 Ms Leigh: show us what happens in the beginning of your story
11 Rachel: ((walks up and down))
12 Ms Leigh: does this get you excited
13 Pupils: no
14 Ms Leigh: okay ((motions to Terry)
15 ((Flynn does a little dance in his seat and sings a
tune. Harry joins in))
16 let's see if the narrator says something like
17 ((whispers in Terry's ear))
18 see if this helps as an opening
19 Terry: oh no it's a tornado
20 ((looks at Ms Leigh))
21 Ms Leigh: ((whispers)) she shouted
22 Terry: she shouted
23 Ms Leigh: ((whispers)) and ran
24 Terry: and ran
25 Ms Leigh: okay
26 let's see if our actor can do that
27 for the opening to our story
28 Rachel: oh no it's a tornado
29 ((runs up and down the circle))
30 Ms Leigh: so we drop ourselves
31 right in the action to start off with
32 and we have some speech there as well
33 William: miss I don't really like (.) that
34 I- I sort of like
35 a bit of talk before it
36 Ms Leigh: well it depends on how you want to start your story
37 doesn't it
38 William: ((nodding)) (yeah)
39 Ms Leigh: so you could have-
40 you mean talk as the narrator
41 or talk as the actors
42 William: no [the narrator
43 Flynn: [(like- (.) they [might just)
44 William [they might just tell you
45 what's going on
46 Ms Leigh: [okay
47 William: [because that just [drops you straight in
48 Harry: [(oh I know what he means)
49 William: [and you're like
50 Harry: [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

51 William: [what's going on
52 Rachel: [(xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
53 because you can have
54 the two people that are acting it out
55 Harry: [it's like
56 Rachel: [and then you need someone else to tell you about it)
57 Harry: [hey (xxx)
58 Ms Leigh: ((to Rachel)) but don't forget though
59 when you come to write it tomorrow
60 there'll only be you who's writing it
61 so really we're using this
62 to help us organise our thinking
63 if you two come and sit down
64 [(Rachel and Terry return to their seats))
65 Ms Leigh: [what would you use to start off with-
66 your story then William
67 William: e::r
68 ((turns around to get his story from the desk behind))
69 Harry ((raises his hand enthusiastically))
70 Ms Leigh: because I've just overheard Ms Forester and Terry
71 having a conversation (.)
72 about how they're not going to start their story
73 let's see if he does it ((gestures to William))
74 William: erm (.)
75 I wouldn't start it like
76 drop it straight in the action with
77 the first line
78 Mary ((raises hand))
79 William: as speech
80 Ms Leigh: okay
81 William: and that
82 I would
83 have a bit of narrator talk
84 to tell you what's going on
85 and the characte:rs a:nd
86 where you are and that
87 and then get into the action
88 Ms Leigh: so you'd start off at the bottom of the story mountain
89 with the narrator directing the action
90 give me an example
91 of what you'd start off for your [story today then
92 Mary [(puts arm down))
93 William: ((looking down at paper)) erm
94 (4)
95 loads of people think nothing's going to happen
96 as they go into a tunnel
97 Mary: ((puts hand up))
98 Ms Leigh: okay so:
99 what I do is
100 [Harry lent me a book today-
101 Harry: [(puts arm down))
102 Ms Leigh: lent me one over the holidays to read
103 and I open the first line

104 the first page of the book
105 and the first line says
106 Tal stretched out his hand and pulled himself up onto
107 the next outthrust spike of tower
108 William: oh because often they put a little
109 like paragraph [befo:re (.)
110 Harry: [(puts hand up vigorously))
111 William: the [(xxxxxxx)
112 Brett: [(below) chapter one
113 Harry: (I know)
114 William: [to tell you what's going on
115 Ms Leigh [ssss
116 Harry: ((turns to William)) the prologue
117 William: yeah that's it
118 Ms Leigh: prologue
119 yes and that gives you an idea of how the story begins
120 so that would help you to have your
121 narrator voice
122 telling us what the action is
123 ((turns to Ms Forester, who is sitting to her left))
124 I just want to go back to what your conversation
125 because you're a bit twitchy here Ms Forester
126 why are you twitching
127 Ms Forester: no I was just going to say
128 I (.) really want to know what happens next
129 Ms Leigh but why though
130 Ms Forester: from that one sentence
131 Ms Leigh: okay so from the one sentence you want to know
132 why he's on a tower
133 Ms Forester: yeah
134 Ms Leigh: okay
135 ((points to William))
136 William: [why's he laying out his hand
137 Harry: [(puts hand down))
138 Harry: oh I [know ((points at Ms Leigh then raises his hand))
139 Ms Leigh: [exactly
140 is he escaping
141 is he climbing
142 ((to Ms Forester))
143 [what did you want to know from William's story
144 [(William signals towards Harry? Harry takes his
145 hand down))
146 (2)
147 Ms Forester: I can't even remember what his-
148 what was the beginning William
149 tell me [again
150 William: [erm
151 many people go to a tunnel
152 thinking nothing's going to happen
153 ((Harry raises his hand))
154 Flynn: [well yeah because you want to know what's (xxxxxx)
155 Ms Forester: [well that happens every day
156 [I go into a tunnel thinking nothing's going to happen

157 Harry: [((Raises hand))
158 William: but then
159 Ms Forester: that's quite normal
160 William: but then (.) and then
161 Ms Forester: hmmm
162 Ms Leigh: so what we need to do is see if we can develop that
163 [a little bit more
164 Flynn: [or xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)
165 Ms Leigh: well we could maybe have a hint from the narrator
166 earlier that there might have been something
167 that had go-
168 you know
169 ((dramatically)) the tunnel had recently been repaired
170 from the tragic accident that had killed
171 a bus load full of school children
172 (1)
173 as usual William and his father
174 went through thinking
175 nothing was going to go wrong
176 ((normal voice)) and then you've got a hint that oh
177 there's already an accident
178 ((dramatically)) they had been driving for hours in the
179 teeming rain (1)
180 desperate to reach their-
181 reach their destination in France
182 they were going to see Manchester United play
183 Kai: Everton
184 Ms Leigh: yeah
185 ((gestures to Harry))
186 Harry: miss it's like in Necropolis (xxxxxxx what his name is)
187 it's like Scarlet was walking a- walking across the road
188 you know when she gets hit by the car
189 it says something like
190 she was walking across the road
191 and just normally walking across the road
192 and sees her friend across the road
193 not knowing that the ma-
194 as she crosses the road
195 not knowing a massive (.) van's about to crash into her
196 Ms Leigh: so
197 we've got a hint then that something's going to go wrong
198 it's just a usual day for her
199 so for William's
200 he might need to open hi-
201 open his story with
202 erm-
203 it was a usual day-
204 it was a day like any other
205 Harry: but-
206 Ms Leigh: Jonathan and his father [were driving through
207 Harry: [((raises his hand))
208 Ms Leigh: the Euro tunnel
210 heading for France

211 they were unaware that disaster was about to strike
 212 and that's where you can use the ellipsis that you like
 213 dot dot dot
 214 William: ((nods))
 215 Ms Leigh: because that's where you're leading the reader
 216 into thinking
 217 disaster what could it be
 218 will they crash
 219 will there be a fire
 220 will they be drowned in the tunnel
 221 what's going to happen
 222 ((signals to Harry))
 223 Harry: miss but
 224 when it says it
 225 nothing does go wrong
 226 a man saves her
 227 nothing goes wrong
 228 Ms Leigh: but that part though
 229 why do you think the- the reader-
 230 the er writer used that
 231 William: ((raises his hand))
 232 (3)
 233 Harry: because she's important
 234 Warren: ((raises his arm but then puts it down again almost
 235 immediately))
 236 Ms Leigh: yeah
 237 also it builds up a bit- a bit of suspense
 238 when you read that part
 239 when I read that part anyway
 240 I could see
 241 ((demonstrates the actions with hand gestures))
 242 her crossing the road
 243 it looked like there was a [car coming towards her
 244 Harry: [so did I
 245 Ms Leigh: it all slowed down
 246 and you could see her
 247 walking down the street like this
 248 this car speeding towards her
 249 blacked out windows
 250 we don't know who the driver is
 251 she just wants to reach her friend
 252 on the other side of the road
 253 and then whoosh
 254 Harry: all-
 255 Ms Leigh: the action sped up
 256 because of the way the writer wrote it
 257 Harry: all I saw was really
 258 when I was reading it
 259 is she walks across the road
 260 and then suddenly it all stopped
 261 I star- even though (.) the picture in my head stopped
 262 I can imagine her
 263 just before it hit her

264 it all just stopped
265 and I started to read on and then I could imagine
266 him
267 *((demonstrates with hand gestures))*
268 walking away with her in her arms
269 you know
270 [(like he saved her)]
271 Ms Leigh: [the Chinese man
272 Harry: yeah
273 Ms Leigh: so that's-
274 the- the writer used that then
275 to make sure that you were involved in the story
276 you got engaged with the character
277 and you thought
278 oh no don't kill her
279 it's only the beginning of the story
280 why would you do that
281 Harry: *((nods))*
282 Ms Leigh: but you know that you've got this
283 mysterious Chinese man there
284 who's looking after her
285 who she- she doesn't know
286 she's never seen him before
287 and he's just come out of the street
288 picked her up
289 carried her off
290 and run away again
291 [why would you do that
292 William: *((lowers arm))* but something sort of goes wrong
293 Harry: because she's a-
294 she's like
295 one of these four people who can save the world
296 and he's *((getting faster and higher pitched))*
297 part of an association that has to save her
298 because she's going to save the world
299 and he can't destroy the whole-
300 Ms Leigh: (.hhhhhh) yes
301 but you don't find that until later
302 so having that in the beginning
303 [gives the author-
304 William: *((raises his hand))*
305 Ms Leigh: h- helps to build up the suspense
306 and the interest in the story
307 Julie: *((raises her hand))*
308 Ms Leigh: right I'm actually going to stop you there
309 because otherwise we're not going to have time
310 Julie: *((puts hand down))*
311 Ms Leigh: *((to William))* so if you've got something you want to say
312 you can come and say it in a moment
313 [so what I want you to do
314 William: [(xxxxxxx) it's about the story
315 Ms Leigh: [okay
316 William: [that Harry was reading

317 Ms Leigh: right ten seconds::
 318 starting [from
 319 Julie: [((puts hand up again))
 320 Ms Leigh: now
 321 William: well something sort of goes wrong
 322 in that the truck's about to hit her
 323 Ms Leigh: does it actually go wrong
 324 William: s- sort of
 325 Ms Leigh: okay and is that a hint of danger
 326 that's what I mean by suspense
 327 it's a bit like
 328 you know if I stand behind you
 329 and you're talking and doing something you shouldn't be
 330 all of a sudden you kind of get that
 331 aa::hhh feeling
 332 Pupils3&5 ((*laugh*))
 333 Ms Leigh: 'she's behind me'
 334 and the hairs on the back of your neck stand up
 335 that's what we mean by suspense
 336 we're waiting for something to go wrong
 337 ((*signals to Julie to speak*))

Transcription notations include:

(text) - Transcription uncertainty
 (xxxxxxx) - Indistinguishable speech
 (.) - Brief pause (under one second)
 (1) - Longer pause (number indicates length to nearest whole second)
 (()) - Description of prosody or non-verbal activity
 [- Overlapping talk or action
 [-
text - Emphasised relative to surrounding talk (underlined words)
 te:xt - Stretched sounds
 sh- - Word cut off
 >text< - Speech delivered more rapidly than surrounding speech.
 TEXT - Shouting
 (.hhh) - Audible inhalation