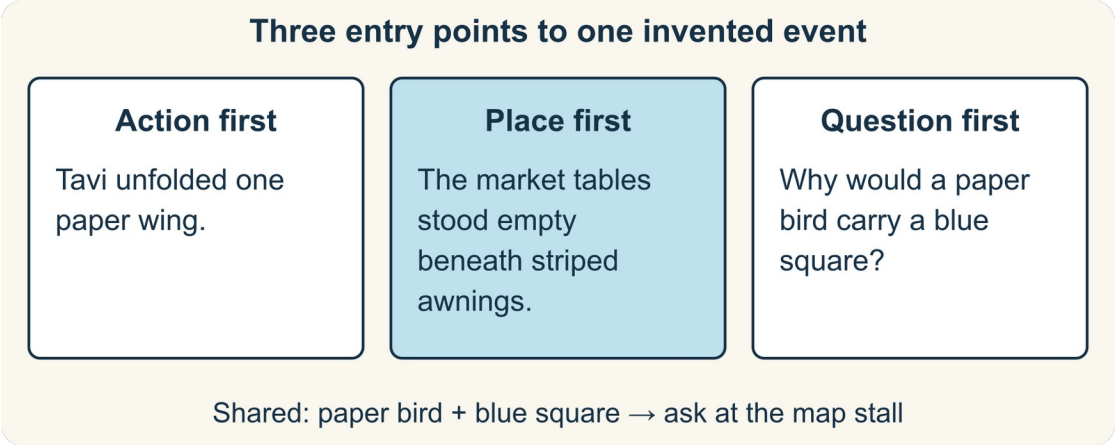
Three openings for one invented story

What does each beginning invite a reader to wonder about?

Write three different entry points to the same harmless invented event, then compare what each lets a reader know first.

Make | 15–25 minutes, or one comparison | Paper and a pen or pencil, The supplied model; no purchase, account or internet connection needed

Start here Keep these shared facts: Tavi finds a folded paper bird on an empty market table. Its wing carries a blue square. Tavi decides to ask at the map stall.



Three entry points, shared facts

1 Read the three models

The example below begins with an action, a place or a question. Each keeps the shared facts; none is the one required opening.

2 Compare the first information

Underline what a reader learns first in each version. Name the question that opening leaves in play: the object's meaning, its arrival or where Tavi will go.

3 Draft a different opening

Write two or three sentences, draw three frames or dictate a version. Change the entry point without adding a contradiction to the fixed facts.

4 Connect a next line

Add one sentence that could follow your opening. Check that its detail grows from what you have introduced rather than explaining an unrelated event.

Three original beginnings one event

These snippets are new Horizon fiction, not a retelling of an existing story.

• Action: “Tavi unfolded one paper wing. A blue square appeared in the crease. The map stall was still open; perhaps someone there could explain it.”

• Place: “The market tables stood empty beneath striped awnings. On the nearest table rested a paper bird with a blue square on its wing. Tavi looked towards the map stall.”

• Question: “Why would a paper bird carry a blue square? Tavi found no other mark on the folded wings. The next place to ask was the map stall.”

What this example can show These are possible stylistic choices, not tested claims about what every reader finds most engaging. The story can stay unfinished.

A different way

Choose between the three supplied openings and explain one difference, or arrange ready-written sentences. Original writing is optional.

If you want to go further

Write a closing line that answers your opening’s main question without inventing an unrelated surprise. Compare two possible endings.

Something to notice

What did my opening invite the reader to wonder about, and did my next line follow that invitation?

Read or explore more

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Horizon topic Setting Place

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Horizon topic Storytelling

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NSW Education Standards Authority narrative - glossary

https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/resources/glossary/narrative

NSW Education Standards Authority voice - glossary

https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/resources/glossary/voice