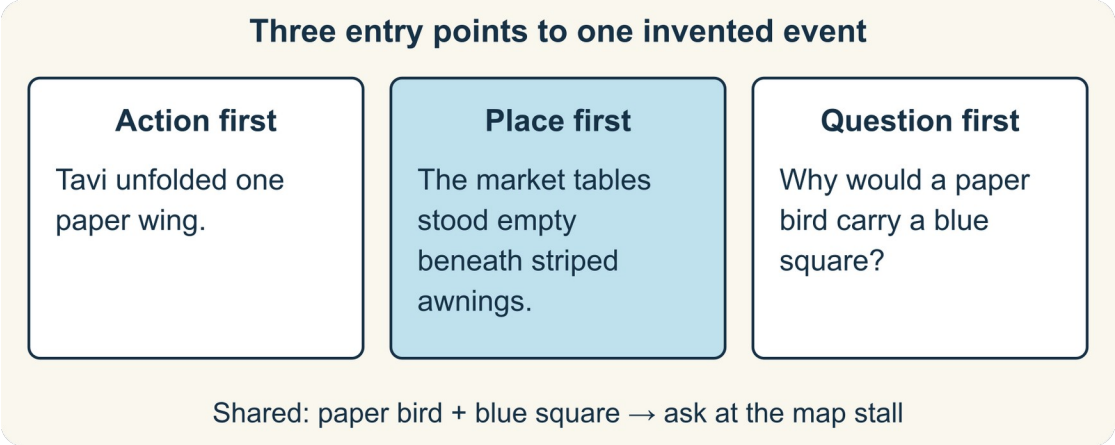
Three openings for one invented story

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

Horizon topic Openings Endings

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/openings-endings/

Horizon topic Setting Place

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/setting-place/

Horizon topic Storytelling

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/storytelling/

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

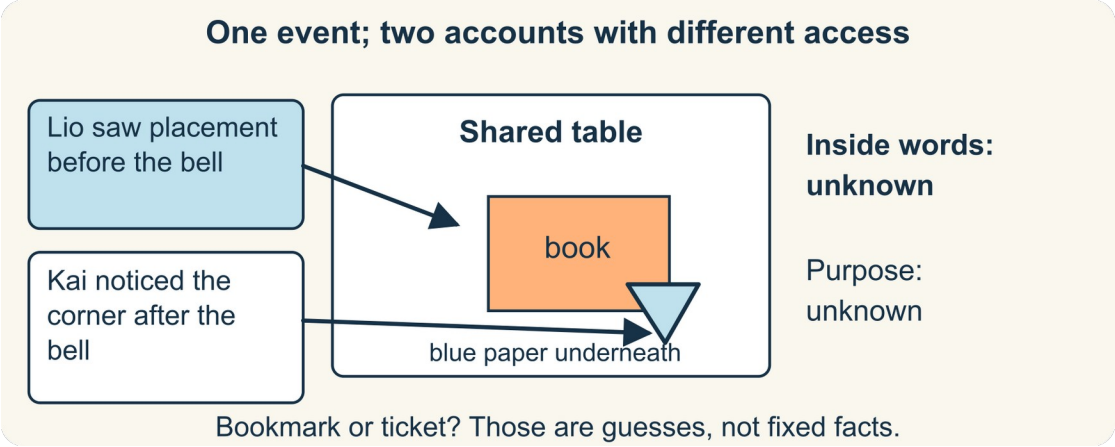
The same small event from two viewpoints

Which details change when an invented narrator changes?

Give two invented narrators different access to one small event. Separate what they can observe from what they merely suppose.

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 Use this fixed event: Renn puts folded blue paper under a book on a table. A bell rings. Lio saw the placement from a window; Kai notices only the corner after the bell.



Same event, different access

1 Track who could know what

Lio saw the paper arrive but cannot read inside it. Kai did not see its arrival. Both can notice the blue corner; neither has been told Renn's purpose.

2 Read the two voices

Compare the supplied first-person versions. "Perhaps a bookmark" and "looked like a ticket" are guesses, not new facts the writer has established.

3 Write within one viewpoint

Add a sentence for Lio or Kai that preserves the fixed event and that narrator's access. You may describe visible detail or a labelled guess; do not silently give them hidden knowledge.

4 Check the reader's picture

Mark observation and inference differently. If you switch narrators, signal the change so a reader can follow whose knowledge is available.

Two tellings without changing the event

Renn, Lio and Kai are fictional; no real scene or private note is being described.

• Lio: “From the window I saw Renn slide folded blue paper under the book. Then the bell rang. I could not read the paper. Perhaps it was a bookmark.”

• Kai: “The bell rang before I noticed a blue corner under the book. From my seat I had not seen it arrive. It looked like a ticket, but I could not be sure.”

• Kai noticed later; this does not mean the paper arrived later. A change in telling need not be a change in the event itself.

What this example can show First person does not make an inference true, and third person does not automatically mean a narrator knows everything. Choose and maintain the access you establish.

A different way

Compare the two supplied accounts using “saw” and “guessed” labels, or draw the table and viewing positions. You need not write about yourself.

If you want to go further

Write a clearly signalled third-person limited version that stays with Kai’s knowledge. Check that changing pronouns has not added hidden facts.

Something to notice

Did I change the viewpoint, or accidentally change what happened?

Read or explore more

Horizon topic Viewpoint Voice

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/viewpoint-voice/

Horizon topic Description Detail

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/description-detail/

Horizon topic Character Motivation

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/character-motivation/

NSW Education Standards Authority voice - glossary

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

NSW Education Standards Authority narrative - glossary

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

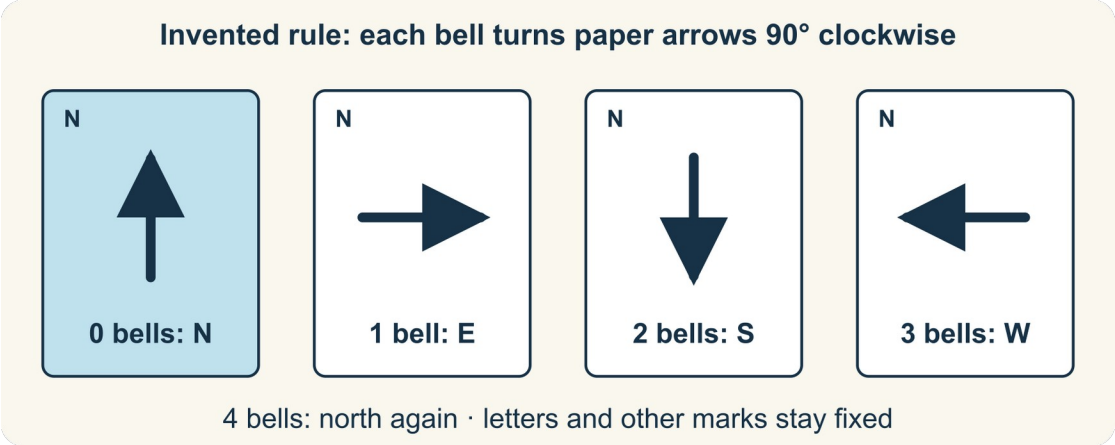
One world rule three consequences

How does an invented rule create connected story possibilities?

Give an invented place one clear rule, then derive consequences that follow from it without adding unexplained powers.

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

Start here In invented Dotfall, every arrow drawn on paper turns 90° clockwise whenever the town bell rings. Other marks stay still. Begin with an arrow pointing north.



A quarter-turn at each fictional bell

1 Trace the rule exactly

After 1 bell it points east, after 2 south, after 3 west and after 4 north again. The arrow's position on the page does not move; only its direction changes.

2 Derive three consequences

A paper map needs the bell count; a north arrow can point east after one ring; the written word NORTH stays fixed because the rule affects arrows, not other marks.

3 Make a small story problem

An invented character wants to label the route to a flower stall. Write or draw a choice between using an arrow and using a written direction. Show how the rule affects that choice.

4 Check consistency

If a scene has an arrow turn 180° after one bell, either revise that scene or explicitly revise the world rule. Do not silently change the rule whenever the plot needs help.

One rule a cycle and a workaround

Dotfall is original fiction. No real paper changes direction when a bell rings.

• The clockwise cycle is north→east→south→west→north: 4 × 90° = 360°.

• A map arrow's meaning depends on when it was read. A character could track the bell count or choose fixed written directions instead.

• Possible scene: "Miri crossed out the arrow and wrote NORTH. When the bell rang, the word stayed put." This follows the stated exception for other marks.

What this example can show These are consequences of a chosen fictional rule, not a claim that every story needs magic, a fixed plot formula or a surprise ending.

A different way

Rotate a drawn arrow on paper through four labelled directions, or check only the supplied consequences. There is no need to invent a whole world.

If you want to go further

Predict the arrow after 5 and 6 bells, then use the four-step cycle to explain east and south without tracing every ring.

Something to notice

Does this event follow my stated rule, or am I adding a new rule without saying so?

Read or explore more

Horizon topic Worldbuilding

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/worldbuilding/

Horizon topic Plot Consequences

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/plot-consequences/

Horizon topic Revision Editing

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/revision-editing/

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