

Story Openings

Name: _____

Date due in: 23rd September

- **I want you to practise describing the setting of your stories, hinting rather than being direct so as to keep your reader interested.**

Look at these story openings. I haven't told you where the story is set, but I have described it through the things you might see and hear if you were there. Can you guess where my stories are set?

Story 1

The automatic doors opened swiftly as Jade strode in. She glanced quickly at the cluster of signs and pressed on down the wide polished corridor. Ahead of her a set of double doors flew open and a trolley, pushed by five concerned faces, passed rapidly by. The smell of antiseptic caught at the back of her throat. Pushing through the doors at the end of the corridor, she emerged into a brightly lit room. Rows of plastic seats groaned with injured people. Where was Manny? The call had been brief. All she knew was that Manny was here somewhere....

Story 2

Sadie thrust the ticket into the man's hand. Half-torn he returned it and pulled open the door. Her eyes narrowed as she stepped forward urgently into the dimly-lit room. Stale popcorn collapsed under her feet. She felt her way down the narrow aisle. She had agreed to meet Gerry somewhere in the middle. The front was too close, whilst the back meant you spent most of your time staring at the hairstyle in front. A young couple stood up to let her pass, their coats fell from their laps and were lost in the dark alley beneath their folding seats.

Story 3

The vegetables gleamed under the lighting as special offers swung giddily on their strings from the ceiling. He inched forward, keeping himself well hidden behind the woman whose child rocked in the metal cage provided at the back of the trolley. As they passed the cheese and milk a cool draught caught the back of his neck, sending a shiver down his spine...

Story 4

The warm dusty draught flapped at her coat, revealing the lining and causing her to pull it tight around her. She thrust her ticket into the metal slit and strode forward confidently. The dull whirring of the escalators carried her down, lost in the confusion of posters advertising West end shows and cheap phone calls. She thought she saw a familiar face passing upwards to her right and stared back to see if she were right....

I think the setting for story one is:

The words and expressions that helped me guess were:

I think the setting for story two is:

The words and expressions that helped me guess were:

I think the setting for story three is:

The words and expressions that helped me guess were:

I think the setting for story four is:

The words and expressions that helped me guess were:

• **Now try to write a story opening in which your character passes through these places:**

a school
a video shop
a park

Before you start, think about the things you might see or hear in these places. Collect some interesting vocabulary to help you write.

Remember, describe the things you might see and hear if you were there. Don't tell your reader directly.