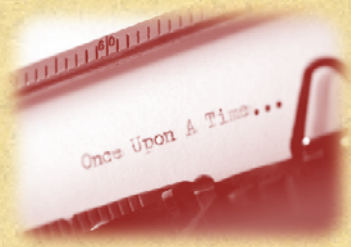


# Riff on Opening Lines



*World literature is rife with great opening lines.*

- \* Choose one of the enclosed opening lines from classic of world literature.
- \* Write the first paragraph or two of a story that unfolds from that line. Change names of people and places as appropriate to your story. You may use the paper provided, or another format as you wish.
- \* Please share your masterpiece with your group, along with your thought processes and approach to the exercise.

*I hadn't so much forgot, as I couldn't  
bring myself to remember..." Maya Angelou,  
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

# Try Your Hand at



*Are you a frustrated poet? Not to worry; we've got  
some scaffolding for you...*

- \* Choose one or more of the enclosed poem frames to construct your own poem. Just fill in the blanks with any number of words (including none), attempting to make a complete and satisfactory poem.
- \* Do not alter any of the existing words or punctuation, or increase the number of lines.
- \* Share your finished poem and your thoughts with your group.
- \* Don't be nervous - just try it!

*The poem frames were actually used as an  
entrance "test" for a poetry class held  
by Jack Spicer in 1957.)*



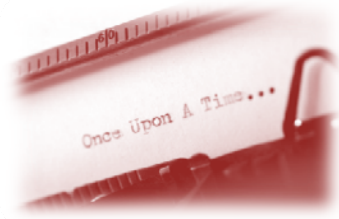
## 6 Word Stories

*That's right!  
A whole story in six words!*

<http://www.sixwordstories.net/2009/07/submit-a-story/>

- \* Using the computer at your table, navigate to the "Submit a Story" tab.
- \* Read examples of other contributors' six word stories - and how much can be packed into a short but powerful statement.
- \* Scroll down to the "Comments" box at the bottom of the page.
- \* Type your own Six Word Story into the box and click Submit. Who knows? You might be the next published author!
- \* Share your story with your group.

# Riff on Opening Lines



- \* Choose one of the enclosed opening lines from classics of world literature.
  - \* Write the first paragraph or two of a story that unfolds from that line. Change names of people and places as appropriate to your story. You may use the paper provided, or another format as you wish.
  - \* Please share your masterpiece with your group, along with your thought processes and approach to the exercise.
- 
- ☒ "I hadn't so much forgot as I couldn't bring myself to remember."  
~ Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
  
  - ☒ "In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since."  
~ F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
  
  - ☒ "Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendia was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice."  
~ Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
  
  - ☒ "For the first fifteen years of our lives, Danny and I lived within five blocks of each other and neither of us knew of the other's existence."  
~ Chaim Potok, *The Chosen*
  
  - ☒ "The old woman remembered a swan she had bought many years ago in Shanghai for a foolish sum."  
~ Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*
  
  - ☒ "All happy families resemble one another, each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."  
~ Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*

# Try Your Hand at



- \* *Just fill in the blanks with any number of words (including none), attempting to make a complete and satisfactory poem.*
- \* *Do not alter any of the existing words or punctuation, or increase the number of lines.*
- \* *Don't be nervous - just try it!*



With the gums \_\_\_\_\_ gone  
are \_\_\_\_\_. And though the nose is \_\_\_\_\_  
nothing,  
the eye \_\_\_\_\_.

And now the \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the radiator \_\_\_\_\_ floor  
is \_\_\_\_\_, the even row of it  
fit to raise  
\_\_\_\_\_ children.

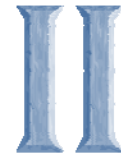
You will count \_\_\_\_\_  
You will stay in the midst of them,  
You will know \_\_\_\_\_, you will hear them  
In the narrow \_\_\_\_\_.

*This poem frame was originally used as an entrance "test" for a poetry class held by Jack Spicer in 1957.)*

# Try Your Hand at



- \* Just fill in the blanks with any number of words (including none), attempting to make a complete and satisfactory poem.
- \* Do not alter any of the existing words or punctuation, or increase the number of lines.
- \* Don't be nervous - just try it!



In \_\_\_\_\_ endlessness  
Snow, \_\_\_\_\_ salt  
He lost his \_\_\_\_\_.

The color white. He walks  
Over a \_\_\_\_\_ carpet made  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Without eyes or thumbs  
He suffers \_\_\_\_\_  
But the \_\_\_\_\_ quiver

In the \_\_\_\_\_ endlessness  
How \_\_\_\_\_ a wound  
His \_\_\_\_\_ left.

Snow, \_\_\_\_\_ salt \_\_\_\_\_  
In the \_\_\_\_\_ endlessness.

*This poem frame was originally used as an entrance "test" for a poetry class held by Jack Spicer in 1957.)*

# Try Your Hand at



- \* Just fill in the blanks with any number of words (including none), attempting to make a complete and satisfactory poem.
- \* Do not alter any of the existing words or punctuation, or increase the number of lines.
- \* Don't be nervous - just try it!



Blue-rooted heron, \_\_\_\_\_ lake  
\_\_\_\_\_ song, like me no traveler  
Taking \_\_\_\_\_ rest, loose-winged water-bird  
And dumb with music \_\_\_\_\_

I stand upon the waterfront, like him no traveler  
\_\_\_\_\_, dangling on \_\_\_\_\_ wings.  
Aching for flight, for \_\_\_\_\_  
I \_\_\_\_\_ and take a rest.

They will not hunt us \_\_\_\_\_  
The flesh of the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ and is dumb.  
The sound of an arrow, the sight of a hunter  
\_\_\_\_\_ life without wings.

So let us die for death alone is motion  
And death alone will make these herons fly.  
\_\_\_\_\_ wingless \_\_\_\_\_ ocean  
\_\_\_\_\_ die.

*This poem frame was originally used as an entrance "test" for a poetry class held by Jack Spicer in 1957.)*



21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning & Leading  
A Whole New Mind

Four-Square Reflection on **Story**

I valued...

I need information/support  
regarding...

I suggest...

I plan to...