

# Pick Up Lines That Work: Powerful Openings In YA Books

## Summary

You know the moment. The one where you take a step forward, your gut churning, your heart racing... "Hello," you say. Then the moment is upon you, that instant in time when you have to hold the other person's attention and gain their interest with only a handful of words.

When we pick up a book for the first time, we have a similar decision to make. Often, we make our decisions not based on a pick up line, but instead on the opening paragraphs of a potential read. Do we want to get involved with this book? Develop a relationship with its characters? Join young adult authors, Joshua David Bellin, Patricia Harrison Easton, Stephanie Keyes, Carla Mooney, and Leah Pileggi as they explore what makes readers want to turn to page two. Bring along your favorite book to share!

## Agenda

- |        |  |  |
|--------|--|--|
| 7:00PM | <i>Introductions</i>   | Library Staff                                      |
| 7:05PM | <i>Opening</i>   | Stephanie Keyes                                    |
| 7:10PM | <i>Core Components of great opening paragraphs.</i>  |  |
|        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your protagonist. First scenes should always showcase the protagonist, aka the main character.</li><li>A catalyst or incident. Great opening paragraphs start out with a bang. What's the inciting incident that drives the main character?</li><li>What does the protagonist need? Identifying a protagonist's core need.</li></ul> | Joshua Bellin<br>Pat Easton<br>Leah Pileggi/Mooney |
| 7:40PM | <i>Exercise</i>  | All  |
|        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Audience will break into groups. We will have a selection of books available for them to choose from. They will discuss opening paragraphs within their groups and the share with the broader audience.</li><li>Authors will float between groups and facilitate the broader group discussion.</li></ul>                             |  |
| 8:00PM | <i>General Q&amp;A</i>   | Authors  |
|        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>We'll pass a basket around with for questions at the beginning of the session. A moderator should be available to questions.</li><li>Authors available for panel questions.</li></ul>  |  |
| 8:15PM | <i>Signings</i>  | Authors  |
|        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Authors will sign books after the event.</li><li>We could use assistants for each of the authors—just in case they can't bring anyone with them.</li></ul>   |  |

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### Resources

If possible, please have the following titles available at the event. The authors can bring their own copies if these titles are not in stock.

*Abandon*, by Meg Cabot

*Beautiful Creatures*, by Kami Garcia, Margaret Stohl

*Before I Fall*, by Lauren Oliver

*Burn Out*, by Kristi Helvig

*Dacey's Song*, by Cynthia Voigt

*Eva*, by Peter Dickenson

*Fat Kid Rules the World*, by K.L. Going

*Gringolandia*, by Lyn Miller-Lachmann

*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, by J.K. Rowling

*Holes*, by Louis Sachar

*iBoy* by Kevin Brooks

*Need* by Carrier Jones

*Nil*, by Lynne Matson

*Out of the Dust*, by Karen Hesse

*Phoenix Island*, John Dixon

*Pobby and Dingan*, by Ben Rice

*Quest For a Maid*, by Mary Frances Hendey

*Speak*, by Laurie Halse Anderson

*The Book of Dreams*, by O.R. Melling

*The Raven Boys*, by Maggie Stiefvater

*The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett

*The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender*, Leslye Walton

*The Yearling*, by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

*Thirteen Reasons Why*, by Jay Asher

*Wintergirls*, by Laurie Halse Anderson