** Narrative Openings**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fruit: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the following openings by writers. Think about the best opening or “hook” for your story.

**I. SETTING**

*This opening creates a picture, a “snapshot,” for the reader. Usually, the “snapshot” is a silent photo—one that describes the* ***setting****.*

*Example of Setting Opening:*

“Super Soaker War” by student writer Bobby Bowden

*It was a hot day on Mississippi Street. The sun was blaring down like a heat lamp, and the sky offered no protection with clouds or smog. My older brother and Roxie our dog were on the porch. The dog’s tongue was hanging out of his mouth like a pink slug.*

Reflection on Setting Opening: How might you use this **SETTING** technique in your own narrative? Which scene would you describe and how?

**II. CHARACTER**

*This opening puts the* ***character*** *in focus by bringing to life the people in the story.*

*Example of Character Opening:*

“Thank You, Ma’am” by Langston Hughes

*She was a large woman with a large purse that had everything in it but hammer and nails. It had a long strap, and she carried it slung across her shoulder. It was about eleven o’clock at night, and she was walking alone, when a boy ran up behind her and tried to snatch her purse. The strap broke with the single tug the boy gave it from behind. But the boy’s weight and the weight of the purse combined caused him to lose his balance so, instead of taking off full blast as he had hoped, the boy fell on his back on the sidewalk, and his legs flew up. The large woman simply turned around and kicked him right square in his blue-jeaned sitter. Then she reached down, picked the boy up by his shirt front, and shook him until his teeth rattled.*

Reflection on Character Opening: How might you use this **CHARACTER** technique in your own narrative? Which character would you describe and how?

**III. DIALOGUE/SCENE**

*This opening puts the reader right in middle of the action or scene*

*Example of Setting Opening:*

“Third Grade Punches” by former student Katie Takemoto

 “Katie! Katie come down!”

 *What does she want now? She called me down not too long ago.*

 “Katie get down here right now!”

 *Now I remember. Sydney is coming over for the block party.*

“Katie are you coming?!”

Reflection on Dialogue/Scene Opening: How might you use this **dialogue/scene** technique in your own narrative? What scene or interaction between characters would you describe and how?

**Reflection**

1. What is the main feeling/emotion at the climax of your story? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Out of the three types of narrative openings (Setting, Character, and Dialogue/Scene), which one(s) do you think will best set the reader up for the emotion at the climax of the story? Explain your choice.

 *I will use the narrative opening \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because…*