

The  
Wow

e-newsletter

Principles

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## Getting It Right the First Time!

Recently, at our daughter's middle school book faire, I opened a dozen teen novels and read their opening sentences. It's something you should do for whatever genre you're interested in writing, whether it's teen novels, adult romance, action adventure or mysteries. It's critical that your opening sentence, paragraph and chapter are on target, or you aren't going to catch—and keep—any agent, editor or publisher's attention, let alone convince them to read more of your submission.

What I discovered in nearly all of the teen novels I read was a first sentence that began with an action designed specifically to grab the reader's interest. Following are a few examples:

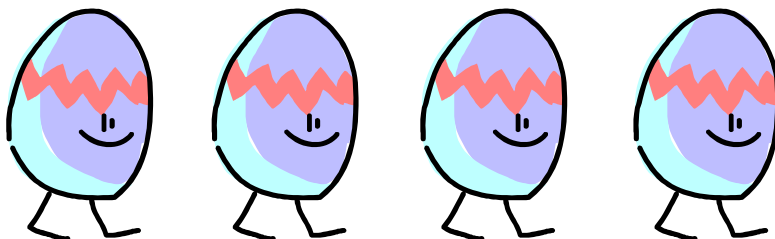
“Matt Freeman knew he was making a mistake.” (*Raven's Gate* by Anthony Horowitz)

“I should have known that Sunday afternoon would turn out to be a disaster.” (*Disappearance*, by Jude Watson)

“The stretch of road that leads out of the city, past Hazy Harbor and into the town of Tedia, is perhaps the most unpleasant in the world.” (*A Series of Unfortunate Events—The Reptile Room* by Lemony Snicket)

“After their sister's kidnapping, Dad not only took Stephan and Jodie to school every morning, he held their hands. (*Whatever Happened to Janie* by Caroline B. Cooney)

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Again, these are a few examples of how successful authors have begun their teen novels. Those first sentences cause readers to ask the question “why?” and then continue reading to find the answer. No long, adjective-laced prose; simple short, declarative statements that set up the book’s conflict, with a promise of more to come.

If your goal is to have your work published, it’s important you’re not too overly creative in making that first impression (i.e., opening line of your text). You don’t want to veer too far from what editors and publishers are buying! 

**Do you have questions about the writing and publishing world? Send them to [Questions@PublishingSyndicate.com](mailto:Questions@PublishingSyndicate.com) and we will answer them in a future issue!**

One of our favorite professional cartoonists is Jonny Hawkins. His ability to create a cartoon specific to our needs never ceases to amaze us! Jonny is also a prolific contributor to the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series as well, having been featured in 36 books to date, plus in another 75 non-Chicken books.

Jonny is available to create cartoons for specific book and writing projects ([jonnyhawkins2nz@yahoo.com](mailto:jonnyhawkins2nz@yahoo.com)). Be sure to tell Jonny that you learned about him through Publishing Syndicate!

## Calling all cartoonists!

We need cartoons for *Menopausal Soul* and *Red Hat Society Soul* (see page 3).

Please send copies only of your artwork to [Story@PublishingSyndicate.com](mailto:Story@PublishingSyndicate.com) or Publishing Syndicate, PO Box 607, Orangevale, CA 95662



Another prize-winning Hawkin special!  
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# The Wow Principles e-newsletter

## **HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF!**

We are offering an **extra-value incentive** to those of you who are interested in submitting stories for either *Menopausal Soul* or *Red Hat Society Soul*. If you purchase our *Wow Principles #1* e-booklet--*Seven Steps to Wow Publishers Into Purchasing Your Nonfiction Stories*--then submit a story for either title, we will provide you with a free evaluation of your story! We typically charge \$250 per hour for these consulting services! Visit our website ([www.PublishingSyndicate.com](http://www.PublishingSyndicate.com)) to order your copy!

Please send stories for the following two titles directly to [Story@PublishingSyndicate.com](mailto:Story@PublishingSyndicate.com).

### **Chicken Soup for the Menopausal Soul**

Light-hearted stories about that “second coming-of-age” told from the perspectives of those women who have experienced it and those men who have lived through it!

Deadline: November 1, 2006

Slated Release: August 2007

### **Chicken Soup for the Red Hat Society Soul**

This book will feature stories by the women who belong to this very unique, worldwide women’s organization.

Deadline: November 1, 2006

Slated Release: October 2007



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**To learn more about the titles below, and to also submit stories, please visit**  
**[www.chickensoup.com](http://www.chickensoup.com)**

**Chicken Soup for the Mother’s and Daughter’s Soul II** -- deadline is June 2006

**Chicken Soup for the New Mom’s Soul** -- deadline is June 2006

**Chicken Soup for the Lady Golfer’s Soul** -- deadline is July 2006

**Chicken Soup for the Girl’s Soul II** -- deadline is September 2006

**Go for it! You can do it! Get published!**

**[www.PublishingSyndicate.com](http://www.PublishingSyndicate.com)**