

First Sentences

1. Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much.	2. After about a kilometer, as he'd been told, he saw it.	3. As I got off the plane, he was waiting for me, holding up a scrap of cardboard with my name scribbled on it.
4. The water in the metal tank slopped sideways and a treacly ripple ran along the edge, reached the corner and died away.	5. I did not realize for a long time that I was dead.	
6. <i>Tyler gets me a job as a waiter, after that Tyler's pushing a gun in my mouth and saying, the first step to eternal life is you have to die.</i>	7. In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit.	8. Looking back on it now, I doubt that there was any way I could have imagined what lay ahead.
	11. I was always told that "family" meant some kind of cohesive unit; apparently not.	
10. For a short while during the year I was ten, I thought only people I did not know died.	12. The letter was written, sealed, and mailed that Saturday, but I didn't get the news until a week later.	9. The sky above the port was the color of television, tuned to a dead channel.
	13. Tonight was the fifth night in a row that the cat had stared at the mirror like that.	
14. He couldn't believe he'd said it, but he had.	15. It all started when Kathy Mathis left to go to the bathroom.	17. You know what it's like to walk into your house and know that things aren't right?
18. Somehow, I'm flying above the town, soaring over fields and rooftops.		
19. Thomas Brighton was on his way to the pub when he heard it.	20. It wasn't until they were divorced for 6 years that she really started to love him and by then it was too late.	
	21. <i>The only people who lived in Townsend were the ones who had to.</i>	

First Sentences

If this is the first sentence of the story...	What kind of story is it? What do you already know? What do you expect to happen next? Make some judgments.
1. Harry locked his mother in the closet.	
2. If you're going to read this, don't bother.	
3. Mike White is thin and pale like smoke.	
4. You'll probably think I'm making a lot of this up just to make me sound better than I really am or smarter or even luckier but I'm not.	
5. There was no possibility of taking a walk that day.	
6. We were about forty minutes out of San Francisco when the crew finally decided to take action on the problem in Lavatory 1B.	
7. Most of the crowd at Malloy's Bar & Sleep over in Delta Sector had no idea what was really going on.	
8. I thought that going to high school was going to be a big improvement over what I used to do.	
9. This is my favorite book in all the world, though I have never read it.	
10. The night before he went to London, Richard Mayhew was not enjoying himself.	