# Lesson 2: Begin Your Adventure

# UNIT: Australian Adventures

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# TRANSCRIPT

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## HOOK 1

Hi, it's Anne. Welcome back to the Adventure Story Club. You've been working on characters and story maps for your Australian adventures. There are probably tons of different stories planned for the Adventure Story Club.

Maybe there's one about an explorer who encounters arguing koalas. Or about getting a selfie with a quokka. Or maybe an explorer encounters a kangaroo who broke into the camp bathroom to eat all the toilet paper.

Today, we'll be working on leads for our stories. Leads are the very first part of a story, and it's how writers bring the reader into the world of the story. Storytellers who work on movies have to do this, too.

Check out the start of this short film.

## DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What do you notice about the start of this film?

## HOOK 2

There are lots of things the filmmakers did to bring us into the world of this story. Maybe you noticed where this story is happening—in the mountains. Maybe you noticed the

main explorer character. And you probably noticed what's happening—she's playing with her dog.

When I think about the character in this film, I can already tell that this character loves her dog and is probably kind to animals.

For now, we can use all of these ideas to help write the leads of our stories.

I made my story map in the last lesson, but it's been a while. I might have forgotten some of the parts. Let's review it together:

- My character is Harper, and she is on an adventure in the Australian Outback.

- She really wants to take a picture of a trilobite fossil for her social media account.

- Along the way, she encounters some obstacles.

- She finds the fossil in the cave, but the cave starts to rumble, and she has to escape.

- She makes it out and returns home where she posts her picture.

- In the end, she learns something about herself.

That's a great outline for the entire story, but I need a lead to begin the story. On the story map, the lead goes here. The lead will help readers picture what's going on right at the start.

But hang on, the picture is blank. I'll need to write something to start building the picture. Here's what I wrote:

*- There was a girl named Harper. She was on an adventure in the Australian outback. She wanted to get a picture of a trilobite fossil.*

Wow, every sentence I write builds a picture in my reader's mind! Right now, I've made a picture, but nothing is happening yet.

Writers can bring readers into the world of the story with action. Every time action occurs in a story, it shows something about the characters. Remember the start of the film we watched? Those storytellers started with an action—the character playing with her dog. So, we know that this character loves her dog.

As a writer, I want to start with an action that will tell my readers something about my character. Let's see. My character likes cute animals and her favorite binoculars.

She doesn't like feeling rushed. I can imagine something my character could do that would show one of these details.

## DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: What do you think Harper could be doing that would show one of these character details? If you want, you can use more than one.

## HOOK 3

Maybe Harper could be using her binoculars to look at something. Or maybe she sees a super cute animal peeking out at her. Or maybe she checks the time and realizes it's later than she thought and starts feeling rushed. You may have come up with other ideas, too.

I think I'll start my story with Harper using her favorite binoculars. This isn't a big thrilling action, and that's okay. I'll have plenty of those later on in the story. Using her binoculars is just a small action that can help get readers into the world of the story.

For a lead, I have my character, Harper, my setting, the Australian Outback, and some action using her binoculars. Here's what I wrote:

*- Harper stepped to the side of the trail and got her favorite binoculars out of her backpack. She found a shady spot to avoid the heat of the Australian Outback. She focused her binoculars right on the cave she was headed to.*

This is a great lead to my story. I have my character, the setting, and some action that lets my reader know a little bit about my character. She has a favorite pair of binoculars, and she's on her way to a cave. I didn't include all of my character details, and that's okay. Readers will get to know Harper over the whole story, so I'll have chances to add more later on.

Today, you'll write the lead for your story. You'll include your character, the setting, and action to get your reader into the world of your story.

I'll get you started, step by step.

## STEP 1

Get your supplies.

## STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone knows who their talk partner is, move on to the next step.

## STEP 3

Get your Character Details worksheet. Take turns sharing your character and a few details about them with your partner.

## STEP 4

On your Character Details worksheet, choose one or two details from these sections that you would like to include in your lead. Remember, you will get to include other details later on in your story.

Draw a star next to the details you chose.

## STEP 5

Get your Story Map worksheet. To review your plan, take turns reading your story map aloud to your partner.

## STEP 6

Take a look at the character details you chose to include in your lead. To start your story with action, you'll need to think of something your character could be doing that shows that detail. Remember, it doesn't need to be a big, exciting thing. Just something small to help the reader picture what's going on.

Discuss with your partner: What is something your character could be doing that shows one or two of their character details? You can change which ones you picked if you want.

## STEP 7

You're ready to write your lead.

Get your Story Draft worksheet. In your lead, remember to include your character, the setting, and the action you chose. You can include them in any order you want. Your teacher will tell you how much drafting time you have. Begin writing at the backpack.

## STEP 8

Nice job writing a lead that will bring readers into the world of your story!

The next part on your story map is the character want. Here's how I wrote what my character wanted:

> *- Harper had heard that the cave had a rare fossil of a trilobite inside. She wanted to take a picture of it for her social media account that was all about fossils. She knew her followers would love to see this rare find.*

This part of my story is a new idea. It's not the same action that was happening in my lead. Writers group similar parts of the story in paragraphs. Notice how I started a new paragraph by skipping to the next line and indenting, like this.

Now it's your turn to include what your character wants and why they want that thing. You may want to include other details too, and that's okay. Start a new paragraph to continue writing. If you need more space, skip below the dotted line and keep writing here.

## STEP 9

In a later lesson, this part of your story will be folded to become the first pages of your adventure storybook. To keep track of all of your pages, write the number one as the first page number and the number two as the second page number here.

## WRAP UP

Wow, writers, your adventure is off to a great start! You have a lead that brings your reader into the world of the story, and you included what your character wants.

In the next lesson, you'll draft some of the events that your character will encounter along their journey. We don't want our readers to get bored, so we will keep making our adventure story more exciting.

Be sure to put your V.I.P.s somewhere safe, and I'll see you next time.