

FULL CURRICULUM

WELCOME – Start Here

- 1 – Welcome video
- 2 – Set yourself up for success
- 3 – Where to get help
- 4 – Where and how to add your comments

Module 1 – Why Write a Gripping First Page?

- 1 – The purpose and definition of "gripping"
- 2 – Whatever works (or, there are always exceptions)
- 3 – The power of a great opening sentence
- 4 – Your opening sentence(s)—give and receive feedback

Module 2 – Elements to Consider for Your Opening Page

- 1 – Quickly establish point-of-view
 - 2 – Embrace your particular voice or style
 - 3 – Begin your story in media res (in the middle of things)
 - 4 – Open in a specific setting
 - 5 – Introduce some sense of conflict or action
 - 6 – Include an emerging narrative theme
 - 7 – Build anticipation
 - 8 – Establish mood and atmosphere
 - 9 – Begin with interesting dialogue
 - 10 – Write lean and strong sentences
- BONUS – Make your reader crave answers

Module 3 – What to Avoid on Your Opening Page

- 1 – Excessive backstory (and other information dumps)
- 2 – The waking up and dream scenes
- 3 – Long passages of landscape description
- 4 – Withholding your protagonist's name
- 5 – Talking heads
- 7 – Generic settings
- 8 – Boring or disembodied dialogue
- 9 – Too many characters

Module 4 – Analyze First Pages

- 1 – Study and assess first pages from published novels
- 2 – Your first page draft—give and receive feedback
- 3 – Share your polished first page

Assess Your Progress and Determine What's Next

- 1 – Reflect on your progress
- 2 – Farewell video—what's next for you?



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<https://gutsygreatnovelist.com/gripping-first-page-master-class/>