

Favorite First Lines from Books

"The old lady had changed her mind about dying but by then it was too late." *City of Bones*, Michael Connelly

"If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book." *The Bad Beginning*, Lemony Snicket

"On a night even demons howl for their mothers, Josh stood on the edge of the highway, thumbing a ride." *Sang Spell*, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

"Here's something I can do without: people standing in front of me in the supermarket line who are paying for an inexpensive item by credit card or personal check. People! Take my word for this: Tic Tacs is not a major purchase." *Brain Droppings*, George Carlin

"For three weeks, the killer actually lived *inside the walls* of an extraordinary fifteen-room beach house." *Kiss the Girls*, James Patterson

"Deep in the past during a spectacular cruel raid upon an isolated Ojibwa village mistaken for hostile during the scare over the starving Sioux, a dog bearing upon its back a frame-board tikinagun enclosing a child in moss, velvet, embroideries of beads, was frightened into the vast carcass of the world west of the Otter Tail River." *The Antelope Wife*, Louise Erdrich

"The man in the dog suit whines outside the door." *Flying Leap*, Judith Budnitz

"They shoot the white girl first." *Paradise*, Toni Morrison

"Nick Taylor had been called many things since becoming chief spokesman for the Academy of Tobacco Studies, but until now no one had actually compared him to Satan." *Thank You for Smoking*, Christopher Buckley

"I have been afraid of putting air in a tire ever since I saw a tractor tire blow up and throw Newt Hardbine's father over the top of the Standard Oil sign." *The Bean Trees*, Barbara Kingsolver

"Novalee Nation, seventeen, seven months pregnant, thirty-seven pounds overweight—and superstitious about sevens—shifted uncomfortably in the seat of the old Plymouth and ran her hands down the curve of her belly." *Where the Heart Is*, Billie Letts

"On a cold, blowy February day a woman is boarding the 10 A.M. flight to London, followed by an invisible dog." *Foreign Affairs*, Alison Lurie