7  **Once upon a time...**

How you start your story is very important. The first few lines are essential because they make the reader want to read on. This is known as a ‘hook’.

**Start with...**
- time
- a flashback
- a question
- describing a character
- describing a setting
- direct speech
- the weather
- a statement

Use the activity sheet to plan the perfect opening to your mystery story.

---

8  **Let’s get planning!**

The key to any great story is creating a story plan. This gives you the chance to get all your ideas down on paper and make changes, before you start writing.

**Time to think about...**
- settings
- characters
- vocabulary
- story opening
- the ending
- problems

Use the activity sheet to help you to plan your mystery story.