**LEADS** in memoirs

The lead is the beginning or introduction of a piece of writing. Therefore, it’s the very first impression readers will form when they experience your writing. A good lead is one that pulls readers into your writing and entices them to read more.

**Set the Scene Lead:** This type of lead creates a picture of the story’s setting in the reader’s mind. Incorporate the five senses when you’re setting the scene.

**Set the Scene Example:** *The open air at my grandparents’ country home always smelled of hydrangeas and freshly baked apple pie.*

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**Figurative Language:** Start your story with figurative language. Try incorporating a simile (comparing two things using “like” or “as”), a metaphor (comparison saying one thing is another), personification (giving human characteristics to an inanimate object), or a hyperbole (an exaggeration).

***Metaphor Example:*** *My heart was a puddle when I heard the news about my dog.*

***Hyperbole Example:*** *The racetrack was the size of Texas.*

Your Turn (Figurative Language Type \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

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**Character Lead:** Some stories begin with a character speaking, thinking or doing something.

**Character Speaking Example:** *“There’s no way I’m going to the store,” I whined in response to my mom’s request.*

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**Character Thinking Example:** *Why is it always me? I’m always the one stuck doing errands around this house, I thought to myself when my mom asked me to go to the store.*

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**Character Action Example:** *I reluctantly put on my coat, stomped to the front door and slammed it as hard as I could as I left for the store.*

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**Bold Statement:** Some stories start with an announcement. The statement should be bold and even alarming.

**Bold Statement Example:** *From that moment on I decided that I would never shower again.*

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