



Step 2: Sizzling Starts

Mark Greenwood – Author

Before watching Mark Greenwood's video, discuss what you know about using Step 2: Sizzling Starts in informative writing.

Now watch the video and use the following questions to prompt discussion as a whole class or in groups.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Mark Greenwood think that the start of a piece of writing is so important?
2. What does Mark think is difficult about finding a great start to a story?
3. Have you read any of Mark Greenwood's picture books?
4. Having heard about the start of some of his books, is there one book in particular that you would love to read? Why?
5. What Sizzling Starts techniques has Mark used in his informative picture books?
6. Does Mark combine different techniques in his Sizzling Starts?
7. Have you used any of the Sizzling Start techniques Mark mentions in your own writing?
8. Did Mark mention any Sizzling Starts techniques that you hadn't heard of or used before?
9. Did Mark use any familiar techniques in a way that surprised you?
10. 'Faction' is a term some people use for a fictional story about factual events. Mark's books are 'faction'. Can you think of a factual event that would make a good story?

FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITY

Ask students to form small groups and find a fascinating fact for a topic they are currently studying in class. Get students to brainstorm ideas on how they could use the fact as the starting point for an informative picture book. Working individually, students pick their favourite idea and write a Sizzling Start to an informative picture book.