

## Story Starters and Topics

<b>The ancient building loomed ahead of us, huge and foreboding. What would we find in its interior?</b>
<b>My first memory is of.....</b>
<b>They're never around when you want them.....</b>
<b>It was the biggest lie I had ever told. But I couldn't tell the truth.....</b>
<b>It was night. The wind howled and the leaves crunched under our feet. Suddenly we heard ....</b>
<b>I don't think I've ever been more terrified.....</b>
<b>It really irritates me when.....</b>

<b>It was a gloomy winter's evening and Tim hustled his way through the crowd at Flinders Street Station. He'd worked late and was in danger of missing his train. Suddenly a voice from behind him said....</b>
<b>A stiff cold wind tore through the tent flaps. I couldn't feel my frozen feet. Camping at this time of the year was not a good idea. Just then, I heard a scream.....</b>
<b>At night, the castle garden looked different. Moonlight cast strange shadows across the lawn. The bushes seem to conceal dark shapes. "I wish I hadn't promised," Diana muttered to herself as she climbed over the fence.</b>
<b>"What a fabulous way to spend my next three weeks of freedom," thought Sirena, as she passed through the door of the airport terminal. The blast of heat after the air-conditioned interior was a shock.....</b>

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<b>Grinning nastily, he moved slowly towards me. I could hardly breath from fear. I could feel my hands sweating as I clenched them behind me and stepped back.</b>
<b>We heard he was back. We heard he was staying at the best hotel. We heard she was stinking rich....</b>
<b>The strange looking motorbike was left on our front lawn. Nobody knew where it came from, but.....</b>
<b>Once, when I was just a little kid.....</b>
<b>It was a wild night. The wind whipped through the trees and howled over the rooftops.</b>
<b>The very worst thing that has ever happened to me.....</b>
<b>It was the weirdest trip I'd ever been on.....</b>

<b>Joanna could have sworn she had never seen the quaint little shop before, even though she'd passed that way hundreds of times on her way to work. Judging by the cobwebs in the window however.....</b>
<b>Kevin knew as soon as he heard the cracking of the ice beneath his feet that the shortcut across the lake was maybe not the best idea he had ever had.....</b>
<b>The smell was gut-wrenching, it tore at her lungs and filled her with an overwhelming urge to throw up. She fought that with all her will knowing that her very life depended on cool clear decisions.....</b>
<b>It was a mad thing to do. One of those crazy things one does when one is in love. We slipped quietly into the building, passed the dozing night watchman and made our way to the executive lounge.....</b>

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It was the fifth row they'd had that week. Bruce was back late again from the pub and his dinner had dried up; well what did he expect, it had been in the oven over an hour.

Harold prided himself in his greenhouse, a rare collection of exotic flesh eating plants. The absence of the family cat however, made him dread his latest acquisition was more than he'd bargained for.....

Slowly the hand crept around the door. It groped for the light switch and suddenly the lights went out....

The faint hiss of the airlock sliding open alerted deep space astronaut, Carla Richards to the fact that she was not alone.....

Dennis awoke one morning from uneasy dreams and found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect.

How could he have been so stupid? It was unbelievable that after months of rigorous training and planning he could have missed something even a novice would have observed easily.....

A promise is a promise. Even though I had not seen Jeremy for 10 years I could not avoid the fact that I had made a solemn oath to him that I would do it. But.....

The humidity was unbearable and the mosquitoes merciless as they plunged endlessly into my tasty flesh. I prayed that the malaria medication would protect me.

Ghosts! I laughed out loud and was astonished to see the little old man behind the desk's look of genuine fear.....

Sean's laugh quickly disappeared when Elena's hand actually passed through the wall that had looked so solid.

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The muffled sound of an explosion was followed by the grinding of metal and then the right side engine burst into flames.

Wombats love warm cosy places and Wilbur snuffled and snuggled into the gap between the two huge boulders. Winifred was furious.....

He had always wanted to go to Asia but tied and gagged and stuffed into a crate in the cargo hold of a rusting bucket of a ship was not really what he had pictured.

It had been an idyllic weekend. The long walk in had been tiring but the campsite by the waterfall was perfect and all had gone so well until.....

Wouldn't it be great if.....

The frantic beating of the drums signalled the calling of elders to the meeting ground. Umbeko grabbed his spear....

Years and years of planning had gone into this moment. Hugo could not imagine what would happen if this failed. The future of the colony depended on it.

Rats! There were loathsome, dirty, scuffling rats everywhere. Sally wanted to scream but she knew that if she did she would be heard and they would come, so.....

The Monkey Temple loomed ahead of them, just like on the map. They could hear the raucous chatter of hundreds of the beasts that inhabited this ancient ruin.

Emile struggled to lift the lid of the enormous stone box. Was what the natives said true? What would be unleashed by this act? Emile tried to control the fear that.....

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