

FAMOUS OPENING LINES

FROM NOVELS

- "Call me Ishmael."

Herman Melville, Moby-Dick 1851

- "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife."

Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice 1813

- "A screaming comes across the sky."

Thomas Pynchon, Gravity's Rainbow 1973

- "Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice."

Gabriel García Márquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude 1967

- "Lolita, light of my life, fire of my loins."

Vladimir Nabokov, Lolita 1955

- "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."

Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina 1877

- "riverrun, past Eve and Adam's, from swerve of shore to bend of bay, brings us by a commodius vicus of recirculation back to Howth Castle and Environs."

James Joyce, Finnegans Wake 1939

- "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen."

George Orwell, Nineteen Eighty-Four 1949

- "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities 1859

- "I am an invisible man."

Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man 1952

- "You don't know about me without you have read a book by the name of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* but that ain't no matter."

Mark Twain, Huckleberry Finn 1885

- "If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth."

J. D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye 1951

- "Once upon a time and a very good time it was there was a moocow coming down along the road and this moocow that was coming down along the road met a nicens little boy named baby tuckoo."

James Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man 1916