Engaging The Reader

In a narrative, there are many ways to bring your reader in. Knowing the tricks will help you to create an interesting and easy to read narrative.

1. **Start with action**—Beginning your story in the middle of some intense action will draw the reader in quickly. Just make sure it is authentic to the voice and important somehow to the story.

2. **Start with Dialogue**—A conversation is a great way to start a story because we all want to hear what they are going to say next. It’s another way to throw the reader right in.

3. **Killer Voice**—Beginning with a great sense of the narrator’s voice is one way to hook the reader. They will know who is telling the story and how they are going to tell it.

4. **Start with detail**—Detail is a great way to get the reader involved and interested right away. It can paint the picture for the reader so they know just what is going on.

5. **Flash in Time**—Going back or forward in time is a great way (and a popular one) to start your story off with a bang. Be careful though. Anything done this often can become cheap.

6. **ABOVE ALL, introduce the problem.** Stories are about CONFLICT. Without conflict, a story will not work. SO, introducing the problem as soon as you can is a great way to keep your story moving and your reader hooked.