

Famous First Lines



- “Call me Ishmael.”
Moby Dick, or, The Whale by Herman Melville
- “Ships at a distance have every man's wish on board.”
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
- “A throng of bearded men, in sad-colored garments and gray, steeple-crowned hats, intermixed with women, some wearing hoods, and others bareheaded, was assembled in front of a wooden edifice, the door of which was heavily timbered with oak, and studded with iron spikes.”
The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- “A green and yellow parrot, which hung in a cage outside the door, kept repeating over and over: ‘Allez vous-en! Allez vous-en! Sapristi! That's all right!’”
The Awakening by Kate Chopin
- “When Gregor Samsa woke up one morning from unsettling dreams, he found himself changed in his bed into a monstrous vermin.”
The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka
- “During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens, I had been passing alone, on horseback, through a singularly dreary tract of country; and at length found myself, as the shades of the evening drew on, within view of the melancholy House of Usher.”
“The Fall of the House of Usher,” by Edgar Allan Poe
- ”On Friday, 12th June, I woke up at six o'clock and no wonder; it was my birthday.”
The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank
- “It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.”
1984 by George Orwell
- “All children, except one, grow up.”
Peter Pan by James Barrie
- “They shoot the white girl first.”
Paradise by Toni Morrison