

16. TITLE:

All the W's

SENTENCES

EXAMPLES:

a. Why do you think he ran away?

(This could be used in the middle of a story as an authorial intrusion in order to maintain the reader's attention. In a sense, it is a cue to read on).

b. What next?

(An effective paragraph opening which could be used in the middle of a story after a series of setbacks).

c. Why is our climate changing?

(As an opening to arouse interest).

d. Will that really be the end?

(As an ending to a story).

EXPLANATION:

All the W's sentences are short sentences which begin with:

Who? What? When? Where? Why? Would? Was? Will? What if?

They are used for the following effects:

1. To directly involve the reader.
2. As an opening to a paragraph.
3. As an opening to arouse interest.
4. As an ending to suggest that the reader needs to make up his/her own mind.

TEACHING TIPS:

The main danger with questions, as with alliteration, is that they are scattered too frequently through the writing, thereby losing impact. When to use questions and why we use them? - this should be the central focus of our teaching. Examples which fall into the four categories listed above may be collected and displayed. I also encourage the use of Would? Was? and Will? in addition to the more familiar Who? Where? What? When? When? And Why?