

Types of Narrative Leads

The lead of a narrative brings readers right into the action of the story.

1. Action	A character is doing something.
<p>David gulped his milk, pushed away from the table, and bolted out of the kitchen, slamming the broken screen door behind him. He ran down to the family's dock as fast as his legs would carry him. His feet pounded on the old wood, as he hurried toward his dad's voice.</p> <p>"David!" his father bellowed again.</p> <p>"Coming, Dad!" David gasped. He couldn't see his dad yet—just the sails of the boats that had already put out into the lake for the day.</p>	
2. Dialogue	A character or characters are speaking.
<p>"David! Get down here on the double!" Dad yelled. His voice sounded far away.</p> <p>"Dad?" David hollered. "Where are you?" David squinted through the screen door but couldn't see his father.</p> <p>"I'm on the dock. Hurry up! You're not going to believe this."</p>	
3. Reaction	A character is thinking.
<p>David couldn't imagine why his father was hollering for him at 7:14 in the morning. He thought fast about what he might have done to get his dad so upset. Had his father found out about the way David had talked to his mother the night before, when they had gotten to camp and she had asked David to help with unpacking the car? Had he discovered the fishing reel David had broken the week before? Before David could consider a third possibility, his father's voice shattered his thoughts.</p> <p>"David! Hurry up! You're not going to believe this!"</p>	
4. Description	Show us something in detail.
<p>David was lying in his bed, watching the light from the sun make tiny square patterns on his bedroom wall. He could hear a mosquito buzzing around his head, and the smell of his mother's coffee was just beginning to make its way up the stairs. He'd left his window open the night before, and as the day began to get warmer, he could smell the sap of the pine trees drift into the room.</p>	