

Opening Lines from World Literature

"Have you written to your dad yet?" asked Nene one afternoon as she sat with Nnaemeka in her room at 16 Kasanga Street, Lagos." From "Marriage is a Private Affair" by Chinua Achebe (Nigeria)

"Hide that Christmas tree away, Helen." From *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen (Norway)

"El Capitan and the woman Nina Eloisa had danced together so many years that they had achieved perfection." From "The Little Heidelberg" by Isabel Allende (Chile)

"Ogata Shingo, his brow slightly furrowed, his lips slightly parted, wore an air of thought." From *The Sound of the Mountain* by Kawabata Yasunari (Japan)

"The train emerged from the quivering tunnel of sandy rocks, began to cross the symmetrical, interminable banana plantations, and the air became humid and they couldn't feel the sea breeze any more." From "Tuesday Siesta" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Columbia)

"All happy families resemble one another, but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." From *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy (Russia)

"The city of cats and the city of men exist one inside the other, but they are not the same city." From "The Garden of Stubborn Cats" by Italo Calvino (Italy)

"In the Reserve I have sometimes come upon the Iguana, the big lizards, as they were sunning themselves upon a flat stone in a river-bed." From "The Iguana" by Isak Dinesen (Kenya)

"Early in the morning the maiden aunt took her rocking chair out onto the porch facing the cane fields, as she always did whenever she felt the urge to make a doll." From "The Youngest Doll" by Rosario Ferre (Puerto Rico)

"Once upon a time there was a poor fisherman who had a wife and three children to support." From "The Fisherman and the Jinnee" by Anonymous (Persia)

"It was still too hot to play outdoors." From *Games at Twilight* by Anita Desai (India)

"First of all, to avoid any possible misunderstanding, we should state that this was, strictly speaking, a sally to nowhere." From "The First Sally (A) or Trurl's Electronic Bard" by Stanislaw Lem (Poland)