Literary Beginnings and Endings Worksheet Key

When given the opening lines from one of the following literary examples, students should choose the corresponding ending.

B1: Magnus Bede, the famous alchemist, and his happy-go-lucky wife, Eutilda, thought they had a harmonious family. But their older son, Yorick, considered little Charles a first-rate pain in the pants, always occupied with something silly.

E4: The two brothers sincerely appreciated each other now.

Except when they were having a fight.


B2: She could have picked a chiming clock or a porcelain figurine, but Miss Bridie chose a shovel back in 1856.

E9: She could have had a chiming clock or a porcelain figurine, but Miss Bridie chose a shovel back in 1856.


B3: Winter is coming.

E10: Summer is coming.

B4: Ruthie Simms didn’t have a dog. She didn’t have a cat, or a brother, or a sister. But Jessica was the next best thing.

E11: Ruthie Simms didn’t have a dog. She didn’t have a cat, or a brother, or a sister. But Jessica was even better.


B5: Miss Elizabeth felt troubled.

E13: And Miss Elizabeth rocked and rocked and rocked.


B6: This is the pot that Juan built.

E7: The beautiful pot that Juan built.


B7: One wintry day I made a snowman, very round and tall.

E12: So if your snowman’s grin is crooked, or he’s lost a little height, you’ll know he’s just been doing what snowmen do at night.

B8: Two men walked into the rain forest.

E2: Then he dropped the ax and walked out of the rain forest.


B9: When the eggs hatched, the little crocodiles crawled out onto the riverbeach. But Cornelius walked out upright.

E3: Life on the riverbeach would never be the same.


B10: This is the great Kapiti Plain,

All fresh and green from the African rains,

A sea of grass for the ground birds to nest in,

And patches of shade for wild creatures to rest in…

E1: So the grass grew green and the cattle fat,

And Ki-pat got a wife and a little Ki-pat—.

Who tends the cows now, and shoots down the rain,

When black clouds shadow Kapiti plain.

B11: It was in the summer of the year when the relatives came. They came up from Virginia.

E5: When they were finally home in Virginia, they crawled into their silent, soft beds and dreamed about the next summer.


----------------------------------------------------------------

B12: On the day Shirley had invited all of her relatives to dinner and Moe, her husband, was pleasantly tinkering in the yard, a flying saucer quietly landed next to their toolshed.

E8: Luckily, Shirley had made extra spaghetti and meatballs. The cousins, the soldiers, the pilots, the Marines, the FBI men—everyone sat down and had a delicious meal; from soup to nuts.


----------------------------------------------------------------

B13: The sun never rose today. When I came home from school it was dark. When I left for school, it was dark.

E6: Welcome back, sun!