Opening Lines from British Literature

"There was a woman who was beautiful, who started with all the advantages, yet she had no luck." From "The Rocking-Horse Winner" D.H. Lawrence

"Yes, we have heard of the glory of the Spear-Danes' kings in the old days—how the princes of that people did brave deeds." From Prologue of *Beowulf*, prose translation by E. Talbot Donaldson

"A wind is ruffling the tawny pelt / Of Africa." From "A Far Cry from Africa" by Derek Walcott

"As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I lighted on a certain place where was a Den, and I laid down in that place to sleep; and, as I slept, I dreamed a dream." From *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan

"It is a melancholy object to those who walk through this great town or travel in the country, when they see the streets, the roads, and cabin doors, crowded with beggars of the female sex, followed by three, four, or six children, all in rags and importuning every passenger for an alms." From "A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift

"You will rejoice to hear that no disaster has accompanied the commencement of an intense enterprise which you have regarded with such evil forebodings." From *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

"My father's family name being Pirrip, and my Christian name Philip, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Pip. So, I called myself Pip, and came to be called Pip." From *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

"I have just returned from a visit to my landlord—the solitary neighbour that I shall be troubled with." From Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

"One thing was certain, that the white kitten had nothing to do with it—it was the black kitten's fault entirely." From *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll

"But, you may say, we asked you to speak about women and fiction—what, has that got to do with a room of one's own?" From *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf

"It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen." From *1984* by George Orwell