

## Examples of Introductions and Grabbers

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way ...

*Tale of Two Cities*  
Charles Dickens

British residents who have trouble getting over the hump of the day may soon be able to brace themselves with a nice glass of camel's milk, The (London) Daily Telegraph reported Saturday.

*Got Camel's Milk?*  
FOXNews.com

He sits alone in his car with the barrel of a loaded gun in his mouth, financially ruined and emotionally beaten by his last bet — a 25-cent gamble on a Nevada slot machine. At 40, he is a husband, the father of two and a very successful sales manager, but none of that matters. He wants to pull the trigger, but can't. Why? "It was fear that I would screw it up, become a physical vegetable ... lying in bed with all that craziness going on in my head. And that would be pure hell," he explains.

*My Name Is Lou*  
William Mason

Gathering momentum as he sails downhill at breakneck speed, JPL's wheelchair gymnast once again serenely and skillfully navigates his way through the Lab, its roads and the traffic. Onlookers wonder how he does it — many even silently cheer him on. Others watch with furrowed brows, revealing their concern.

*David Beckett: Wheelchair Gymnast*  
William Mason

*An asteroid more than 1 kilometer in diameter slammed into the Pacific Ocean yesterday about 1,000 miles west of Los Angeles. The impact, which could be heard in Seattle, caused tsunamis that killed tens of thousands of people and destroyed billions of dollars worth of property throughout the Pacific islands and coasts. Relief efforts are under way ...*

This devastating impact scenario may seem far-fetched, but according to Dr. David Morrison, chief of the Space Sciences Division at Ames Research Center, who spoke at JPL on Feb. 24, "There is a 1 in 20,000 chance that your tombstone will read, 'Killed by

a cosmic impact.' In fact, the chances of dying from an impact scenario are the same as the chances of dying from an airplane accident."

*Target Earth*  
William Mason

Seat belts. Guns. Tobacco. Can popcorn and eggs be far behind?

Probably not. In its quest to protect us from ourselves, there is no end to government. It may be only a matter of time before we pick up our morning newspapers to read a front-page story about a standoff between police and a man who refuses to pay his Egg McMuffin ticket.

*Public Safety and the Egg McMuffin*  
William Mason

It was a pity that such a beautiful block of marble would be wasted. It was immense, the size of three men. Artists had eyed the stone before, and one had even started to carve it, but he had damaged it to the point that it appeared nothing could be done to salvage it. And so the once-magnificent stone sat discarded — abandoned for decades, a monumental mistake.

*Masterpiece*  
Lloyd D. Newell

If you or a loved one have ever heard, from a physician, "All we can do at this point is manage your cancer," you know the terribly frightened and desperate feeling those words evoke. You immediately know that you'll do anything — anything — to change reality. You ask, perhaps beg, if there is something that can be done — even though the doctor's statement was so plain. As reality sinks in, you start to ask and learn about "managing" pain and life with terminal cancer.

*FDA's Drug Czar*  
Holly Pitt Young

If we ever make contact with aliens, they might be more interested in learning about Van Gogh and Bach than Einstein or Newton, scientists said Saturday.

*If Aliens Exist*  
Clara Moskowitz

The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses on its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, hot.

*Tuck Everlasting*  
Natalie Babbitt