

First Famous Lines Match Game

This Month we celebrate Jeannette Walls's true-life novel of her Grandmother, Lily Casey Smith, *Half Broke Horses*. It begins, "Those old cows knew trouble was coming before we did." A great opening line I fell in love with—once I realized she wasn't talking about me and my buddies... Then it got me thinking about other famous first lines in previous novels, and so that is what your challenge is this month. Match the opening lines below with the novel they launched...

Opening Line:

1. Dr. Iannis had enjoyed a satisfactory day in which none of his patients had died or got any worse.
2. Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.
3. I write this sitting in the kitchen sink.
4. If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth.
5. It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.
6. It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.
7. It was a queer, sultry summer, the summer they electrocuted the Rosenbergs, and I didn't know what I was doing in New York.
8. It was love at first sight.
9. Last night I dreamed I went to Manderley again.
10. Ships at a distance have every man's wish on board.
11. When Farmer Oak smiled, the corners of his mouth spread till they were within an unimportant distance of his ears, his eyes were reduced to chinks, and diverging wrinkles appeared round them, extending upon his countenance like the rays in a rudimentary sketch of the rising sun.
12. Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show.
13. You better not never tell nobody but God.

Novel:

- A. **1984**, George Orwell
- B. **Anna Karenina**, Leo Tolstoy (translated by Constance Garnett)
- C. **The Bell Jar**, Sylvia Plath
- D. **Catch-22**, Joseph Heller
- E. **The Catcher in the Rye**, J. D. Salinger
- F. **The Color Purple**, Alice Walker
- G. **Captain Corelli's Mandolin**, Louis de Bernières
- H. **David Copperfield**, Charles Dickens
- I. **Far from the Maddening Crowd**, Thomas Hardy
- J. **I Capture the Castle**, Dodie Smith
- K. **Pride and Prejudice**, Jane Austen
- L. **Rebecca**, Daphne du Maurier
- M. **Their Eyes Were Watching God**, Zora Neale Hurston

By Marsha Toy Engstrom, **Book Club Cheerleader** ®

