How to start a story

1) “Once upon a time”…Or with a twist: “Once upon a particularly terrifying time…”
2) “One day…” Or perhaps “One gloomy day…” “One sunny day…”
3) With direct speech- e.g. “Hurry up,” yelled Mum, “the taxi will be here any minute…”
4) Starting with a question. E.g. “Have you ever wondered why belly button fluff is always blue?”
5) How about a sound effect? E.g. “Eeeek,” went the brakes as the car skidded sideways.
6) Go straight into the action. e.g. “A vicious right hook caught me just above the eye.”
7) Characters can introduce themselves e.g. “Hello, my name is Sid. I’ve go a brain like a computer and a photographic memory. I’ve been following you now for three weeks, two days, seven hours and thirty-two minutes.”
8) Start with a statement e.g. “Michael was miserable.”
9) A description of a place, a character or a smell can be a good place to start.
   “The acrid smell of smoke drifted towards me.”
10) Time can start a story e.g. “It was midnight….” Or “The clocks struck thirteen.”
11) Weather? “The rain came down like a hail of bullets on the roof of our car.”
12) Flashback e.g. “As I wondered the lonely cliff path my mind went back twenty years to that terrible stormy night when my life changed forever.”