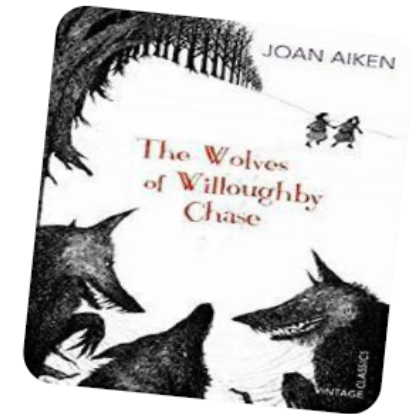


Classic Novel Opening Studies 6 – The Wolves of Willoughby Chase

It was dusk–winter dusk. Snow lay white and shining over the pleated hills, and icicles hung from the forest trees. Snow lay piled on the dark road across Willoughby Wold, but from dawn men had been clearing it with brooms and shovels. There were hundreds of them at work, wrapped in sacking because of the bitter cold, and keeping together in groups for fear of the wolves, grown savage and reckless from hunger.

- 1) List 3 things presented in this short passage that build tension for the reader.
- 2) In this opening, how does the weather play on the reader's emotional response?
- 3) What do the words 'savage' and 'reckless' mean?
- 4) In poetry, writing has distinctive language patterns. Does this story opening have a poetic feel to it? Explain.
- 5) What element of this passage could best be described as the 'hook', the idea that really grabs the readers' attention?



Writing Task

Rewrite this passage with exactly the same amount of words, conjunctions and punctuation but alter vocabulary choices.