**Notable First Lines**

***Directions:*** *Read the following first lines I have collected from different young adult novels.*

1. *Put a* ***star*** *next to the ones that you find* ***the most*** *interesting.*
2. *Put an* ***X*** *next to the ones that you find* ***the least*** *interesting.*

1. “Late in the winter of my seventeenth year, my mother decided I was depressed, presumably because I rarely left the house, spent quite a lot of time in bed, read the same book over and over, ate infrequently, and devoted quite a bit of my abundant free time to thinking about death.”

2. “Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. They were the last people you’d expect to be involved in anything strange or mysterious, because they just didn’t hold with such nonsense.”

3. “Here’s everything I know about France: Madeline and Amelie and Moulin Rouge. The Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe, although I have no idea what the function of either is. Napoleon, Marie Antoinette, and a lot of kings named Louis.”

4. “I’ve been shot. And, as it turns out, a bullet wound is even more uncomfortable than I had imagined.”

5. “In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort.”

6. “There is one mirror in my house. It is behind a sliding panel in the hallway upstairs. Our faction allows me to stand in front of it on the second day of every third month, the day my mother cuts my hair

8. “Blue Sargent had forgotten how many times she’d been told that she would kill her true love.”

9. “I wake up. Immediately I have to figure out who I am.”

10. “It has been sixty-four years since the president and the Consortium identified love as a disease, and forty-three since scientists perfected a cure.”

11. “We hear a wordless recording of wetland sound effects: frogs croaking, birds calling, water rippling gently.”

12. “Dear Friend, I am writing to you because she said you listen and understand and didn’t try to sleep with that person at that party even though you could have. Please don’t try to figure out who she is because then you might figure out who I am, and I really don’t want you to do that.”

**Reactions**

***Directions****: Select one of the lines that you found* ***the most*** *interesting and answer the questions that follow.*

**Most Interesting Line:**

1. Why did this line catch your attention?

2. What do you like about it?

3. What do you think the story is about?

4. Do you want to read more? Why or why not?

5. What makes these first lines better than the ones you found least interesting?