

You Write It

FABULOUS FIRST-LINE

Watch
our **video** at
Scope Online
for tips on
how to write a
winning first
line.

CONTEST

Help an award-winning author write her story!



When Linda Sue Park agreed to be this year's Featured author, we squealed with delight. She is one of our favorites!



Three must-reads!

**WIN
BIG!**

Send your idea for a great first line to **Scope's First-Line Contest**. If Linda Sue Park picks **YOUR** entry to start her story, you will win \$50. Plus, we'll send your teacher a free subscription to *Scope*, and you and your classmates will each get a copy of Linda Sue Park's beautiful novel *A Long Walk to Water*. **For more details, go to Scope Online.**

"Is anyone coming?" Jade Blossom whispered.
"How come you guys don't bunt?"
"It's only a rumor," Abuji said as I cleared the table.

Dear *Scope* readers,

Those are the first lines of three of my books. As you can see, I often use a line of dialogue to open a story. But here's an example of a first line that isn't dialogue: **Patrick and I became friends because of a vegetable.**

First lines are crucial. They draw the reader into the story and set the tone. My favorite first lines of books share a quality that I can sum up in one word: intriguing.

Because first lines are so important, I often find them difficult to write. For one of my books, I tried out more than 30 first lines before I found the one that worked best! It was a lot of work, but it was worth it in the end.

Scope has asked me to contribute a short story. I said yes—but only if **YOU** write the first line for me! Send me your idea by November 15, 2015. (You can find all the details at Scope Online.) I'll pick the one that I find most intriguing and write the rest of the story, which will appear in an issue this spring.

I can't wait to see what you come up with!

Good luck and have fun,
Linda Sue Park