



The Best Book He Never Read

He held the thing aloft
like a dead cat
lifted up by the tail
upside down.
It was as stiff
and moribund
as his feelings for it.

The thing was a prop to him.
The position of it
as meaningless to him
as his were
on all great questions
of life or death
or the human condition.

How often had he stood
even near to a place of worship
much less venture inside
he could not say
nor would he reveal
the place below where his was.

There are no scriptures there
hanging upside down
like dead cats
which is just as well.
Those types of things
are his favorite thing to devour
although he has never read them.

Day 8 Prompt. Choose a first line of a novel to jump start a poem. In this case, from William Goldman's *Princess Bride*: "This is my favorite book in all the world, though I have never read it."

FULL PROMPT: There are so many fabulous first lines of books out there. For today's prompt we are choosing a first line of a novel to jump start our poetry.

The first line can become the title (with credit given to the original author), or it can simply be the jumping off point to the rest of your poem. It might be clear in your mind, but never stated.

Below are four famous first lines. Choose which one works best for you, or you can choose another from your own bookshelf or memory.

"Here is a small fact: You are going to die."

The Book Thief, Marcus Zusak

"This is my favorite book in all the world, though I have never read it."

The Princess Bride, William Goldman

"Ships at a distance have every man's wish on board."

Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston

"I still remember the day my father took me to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books for the first time."

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón

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Scene outside St. John's Episcopal Church, after peaceful protesters were dispersed with tear gas, where the President held a Bible like a product on a home-shopping network (courtesy of Shawn Thew—EPA/Bloomberg/Getty Images).