

Name: **Teacher Model for overhead**

Three Serendipitous Nouns and an Inviting Opening Paragraph
an original WritingFix writing assignment (<http://writingfix.org>)

| My Person: A convict | My Place: A prison cell | My Thing: A brick | What does my character want? |
|---|--|---|--|
| List up to four or five memorable detail words you might want to use in describing your character: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• innocent• calloused hands• thoughtful• determined• angry blue eyes | List up to four or five memorable detail words you might want to use in describing your setting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• cold• cinder blocks• lumpy cot• lifeless• | List up to four or five memorable detail words you might want to use in describing your story object: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• gray• cold• loose•• | After you have brainstormed detail words for your three serendipitous story nouns, come up with one word that would describe what your character ultimately wants in the story you're thinking about: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;">freedom</div> |

Before you begin drafting your opening paragraph below, listen to or read the first paragraph of Brave Margaret: An Irish Adventure one more time. Your paragraph, like the one in Brave Margaret, needs to use all three of your serendipitous nouns, and it needs to end by sharing what your character wants.

When done reading your paragraph, a reader should really want to read the rest of your story!

He sat in his cell, staring at his calloused hands. Dale was tired of staring at the rigid bars and the gray, cinder bricks of the prison. Now he stared at his hands. They brought him hope. His tired, blue eyes were deep, as deep as his thoughts. His face was tired, but surely there was life behind it. Falsely being put in prison couldn't destroy the spirit of a man like Dale Sanderson. He would get out of this place. He would find the actual criminal who had done the crime. As luck would have it, Dale had discovered how to escape last night. He'd found a loose brick in the wall. His hands would help him out of here.

When done writing your opening paragraph's rough draft, read it to a friend, then ask your friend these questions:

- What was my most memorable character detail?
- What was my most memorable setting detail?
- What was my most memorable object detail?
- What did my character want?
- Did you want to read the rest of the story? How come?