GREAT BEGINNINGS
Outline

I. The Importance of a strong opening
   a. Your first reader may be an agent or editor
   b. New writers only have 15 seconds to hook a reader
   c. Opening sets the tone for what’s to come
   d. Tells readers what and who book is about

II. Get into action of story immediately
   a. Backstory and long passages of exposition don’t belong in the first chapter
   b. Edit ruthlessly

III. Opening should be appropriate for type of story you’re telling

IV. Opening should accomplish six things
   a. Get the reader hooked
   b. Establish a bond between the reader and the lead character
   c. Set the scene
   d. Get the conflict going
   e. Describe the protagonist
   f. Surprise the reader