

First Lines Analysis
Compiled By: Glenn Hadzima
Summer News Literacy Institute 2011

Using what you have learned about VIA (Verification, Independence, Accountability) Read the first lines from famous books below and explain what evidence would be needed to make the assertions reliable statements.

“Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.”
Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*

“Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much.”
J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and The Philosopher’s Stone*

“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.”
Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice

“Intelligent life on a planet comes of age when it first works out the reason for its own existence. If superior creatures from space ever visit earth, the first question they will ask, in order to assess the level of our civilization, is: "Have they discovered evolution yet?"
Richard Dawkins, *The Selfish Gene*

“I am a citizen of the United States of America. Our government has been overthrown. Our elected President has been exiled. Old white men wielding martinis and wearing dickies have occupied our nation's capital.”
Michael Moore, *Stupid White Men*