

# ZIPTALES

## Worksheet 1

# The Attic

## Writing Beginnings

*'... the most amazing house ... like something from a monster movie ... dark, mysterious and right in the middle of an old cemetery.'*

The writer begins this story by setting the scene. What sort of a story do you think is going to follow (spooky, funny, adventure, tragedy)?

Now you **choose a house**.

Write a beginning for your own story set in a different house. Think about the **mood** you would like to create and the **type of story** that might follow.



### **For example: A brand new house**

'We stood outside our brand new home admiring the huge shiny brass doorknocker, the gleaming windows and the perfect paintwork. Mum could hardly stop shaking as she slid her key into the lock on the smooth polished front door. She jiggled it a bit, she grunted and seemed to be struggling to turn it. And then, the whole front door came crashing down. We watched as the huge shiny brass doorknocker rolled clumsily down the front path — coming to a stop under the front wheel of our new neighbour's bike!'

What other sorts of houses could you write about? (high-rise flats, glamorous apartments, haunted mansion, ordinary family home — with a twist!) Try out a few ideas, share them with friends and see which seems to be the best beginning for a story. Then go ahead and write one!