First Chapter

Starting a novel can be a daunting task, but it's also an exciting one. Here are some tips to help you get started.

1. **Identify the novel premise**. The beginning of a novel should set the tone for all the writing that follows, letting the reader know what to expect as they make their way deeper into the story. Consider your novel's overall tone and make sure you keep this tone in mind from the very start. To avoid tonal whiplash, you'll need to have a sense of where your novel's going before you craft its opening lines.

2. **Pick a point of view for your prose**. Will you opt for colourful, voice-driven first person or adopt a bird's-eye view of the story with a third person omniscient narrator? Determine the right POV for your genre.

3. **Write a strong opening sentence**. A strong opening sentence can hook the reader and set the tone for the rest of the novel. It should be engaging, intriguing, and make the reader want to keep reading.

4. **Set reader expectations in the first scene**. The first scene of your novel should give readers a sense of what's to come. It should introduce the main character, the setting, and the conflict that will drive the story forward.

5. **Introduce major characters early in the writing process**. Introducing major characters early in the novel can help readers connect with them and become invested in their story.

6. **Establish conflict-heavy stakes**. Conflict is the driving force behind any good story. Establishing conflict-heavy stakes early in the novel can help keep readers engaged and invested in the story.

7. **Develop an inciting incident that will drive the plot**. The inciting incident is the event that sets the story in motion. It should be something that changes the status quo and forces the main character to take action.

8. **Edit what you've written of the book**. Once you've written your opening scene, it's important to go back and edit it. Make sure it's engaging, well-written, and sets the tone for the rest of the novel.