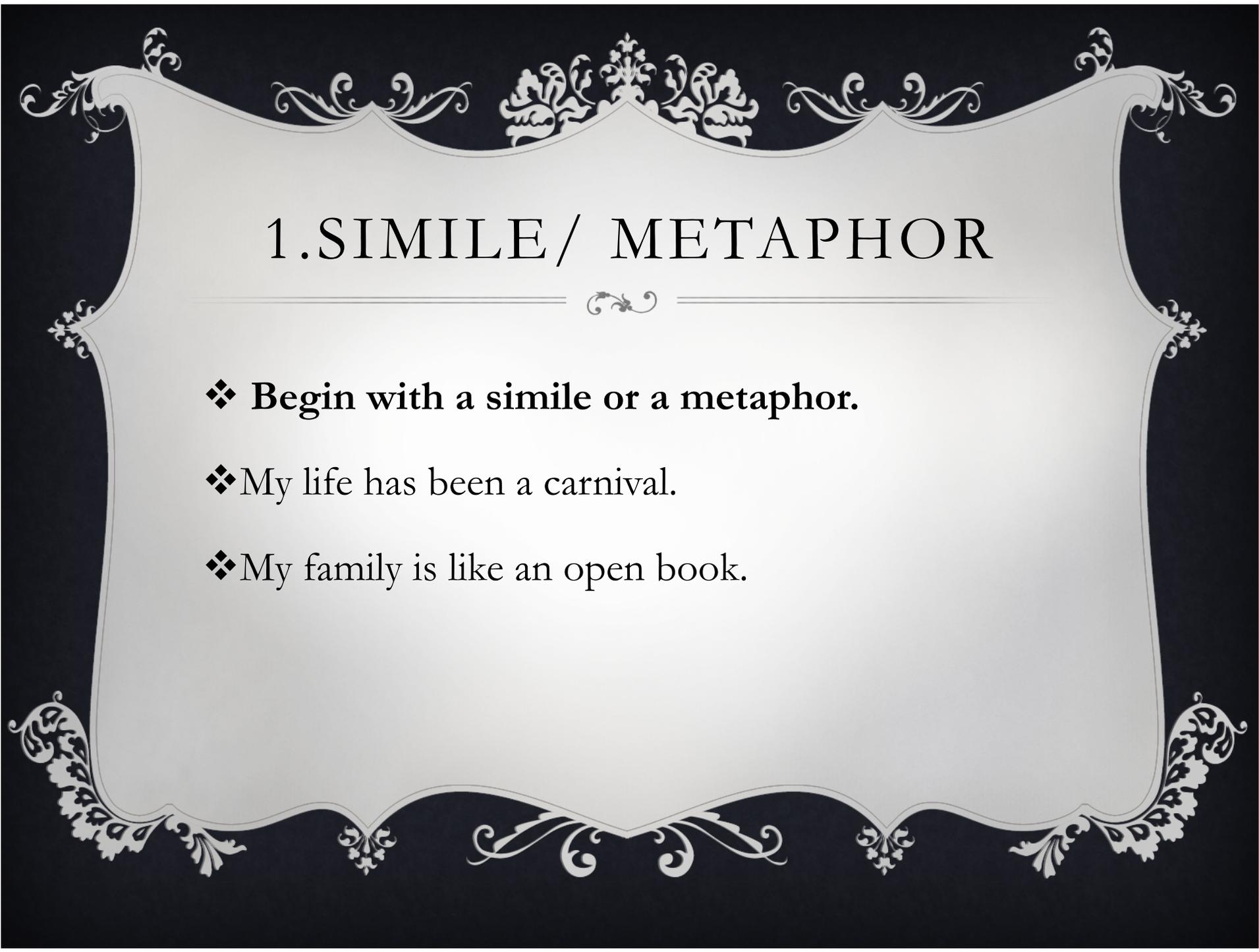


PHRASES THAT ENGAGE A READER

The first few lines of any piece of writing are essential because they set the tone and make the reader want to read on.

A good opening line should leave the reader asking a question.

This question should invite the reader to keep reading.



1. SIMILE / METAPHOR

❖ **Begin with a simile or a metaphor.**

❖ My life has been a carnival.

❖ My family is like an open book.



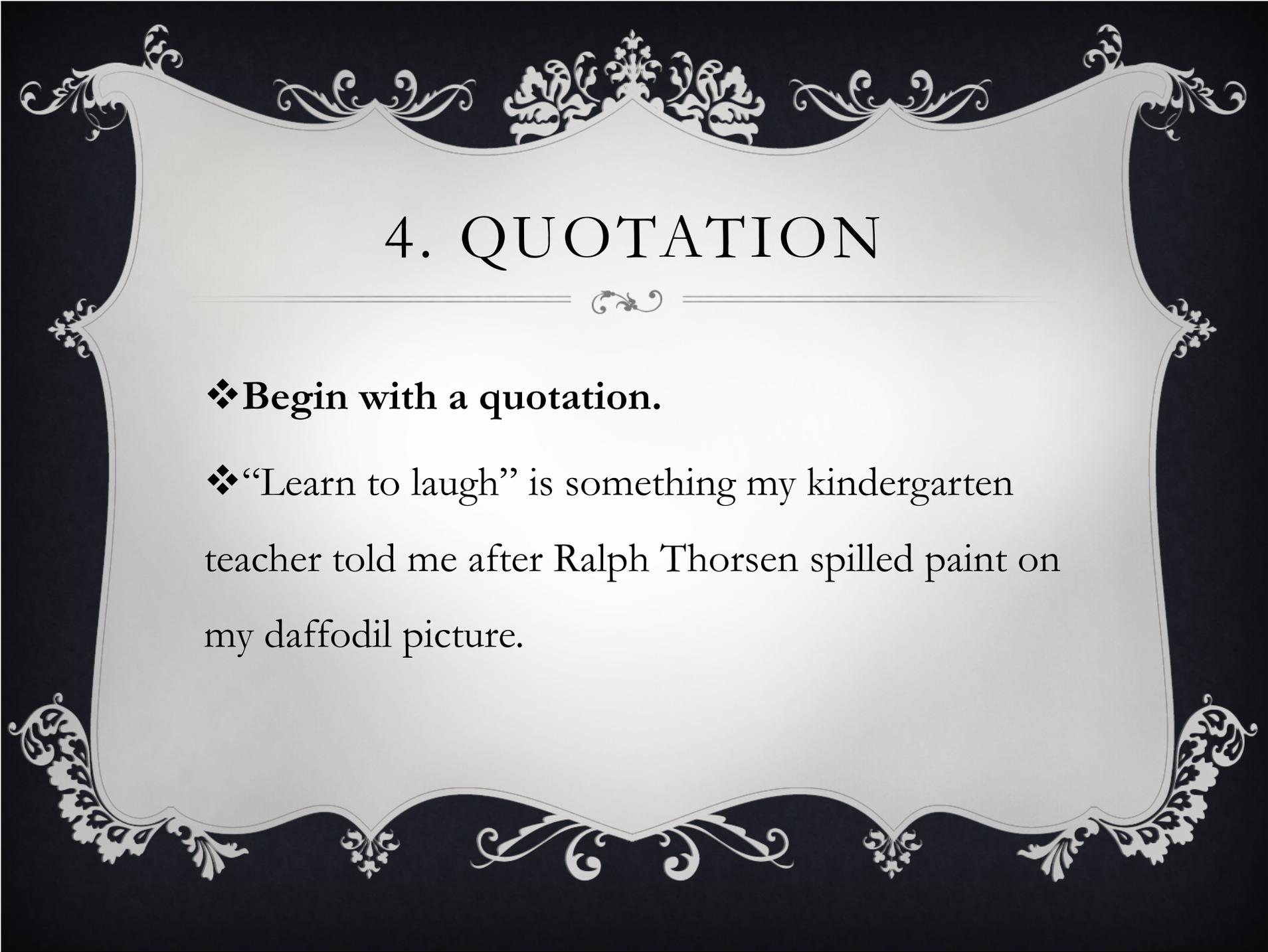
2. QUESTION

- ❖ **Begin with a question.**
- ❖ Who is the greatest athlete of all times?

3. DEFINITION

❖ **Begin with a definition.**

❖ Amiable is the best way to describe my personality: I am friendly and caring. Perfect is the best adjective to describe me: I am flawless in every aspect of my life.



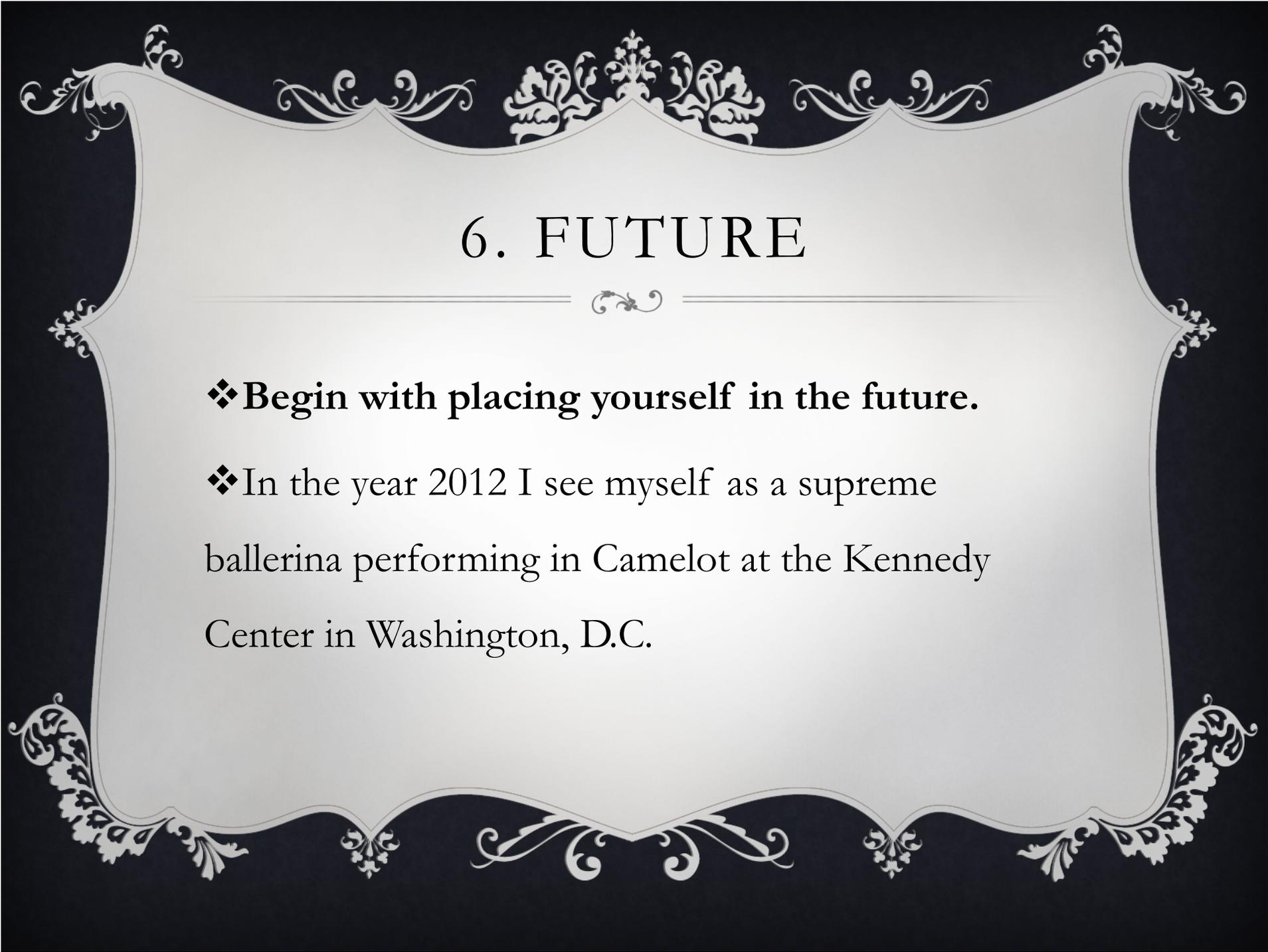
4. QUOTATION

❖ **Begin with a quotation.**

❖ “Learn to laugh” is something my kindergarten teacher told me after Ralph Thorsen spilled paint on my daffodil picture.

5. COMPARISON

- ❖ **Begin with a comparison to a well-known person or celebrity.**
- ❖ I am as photogenic as Tyra Banks.

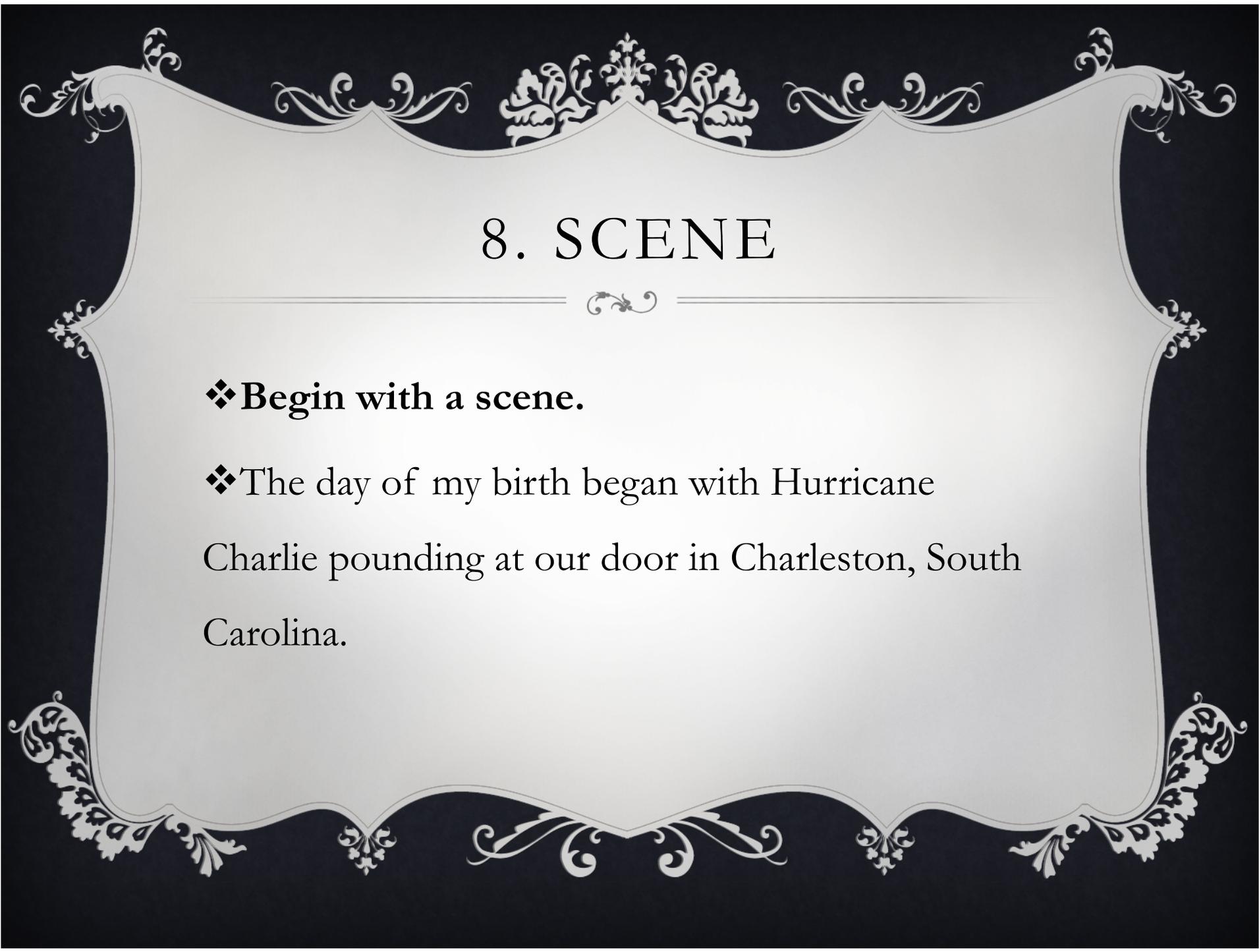


6. FUTURE

- ❖ **Begin with placing yourself in the future.**
- ❖ In the year 2012 I see myself as a supreme ballerina performing in Camelot at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

7. DILEMMA

- ❖ **Begin with a dilemma.**
- ❖ Deciding to attend Hampton Roads Academy, a private school, was one of my most difficult decisions.



8. SCENE

❖ **Begin with a scene.**

❖ The day of my birth began with Hurricane Charlie pounding at our door in Charleston, South Carolina.

9. ADVICE

- ❖ **Begin with the best advice you have ever received.**
- ❖ “Bobby, did you practice the piano?” Since I was six years old, this has been a daily reminder from my dear mother. “Be all you can be” has been my inspiration from my grandfather who is a retired Marine Corps colonel and my mentor.

10. ANECDOTE

❖ **Begin with an anecdote.**

❖ As my cousin and I pedaled our new bikes to the beach, 6 years old, suntanned and young, we met an old, shaggy-haired man weaving unsteadily on a battered old bike.