



SBE First Move Starter Generator

A calm, predictable way to begin every English lesson

The First Move Generator gives you a gentle, low-stakes opener you can use while you take the register, settle the room, or transition into the main learning. It's designed to reduce cognitive load, reduce emotional load, and help every student feel safe, seen, and ready to learn.

Every First Move is rooted in SBE's core principles: clarity, emotional intelligence, and dignity-first teaching.

What is a First Move?

A First Move is a simple, accessible starting point that invites students into the lesson without pressure.

It's not a test.

It's not a warm-up for the sake of it.

It's a meaningful way in.

Students choose how they want to begin: Write It, Draw It, Say It, Think It, Build It, or Hear It.

All options are equal. All options are valid.

This choice supports autonomy, reduces anxiety, and models emotional safety.

What's FAB?

FAB stands for **Framework • Add On • Boost** — three gentle layers of challenge that grow with the learner.

Framework → the essential skeleton (Grades 3–5)

A calm, secure starting point.

Add On → the development layer (Grades 5–7)

A small step forward, with support still visible.

Boost → the sophistication layer (Grades 7–9)

Space for nuance, independence, and writerly thinking.



How the Generator Works

You enter a few details about your lesson:

- the text
- the writer
- the themes
- the character
- the question
- the exam level
- (optional) a seasonal theme
- and whether you want a student-facing or teacher-facing version

The generator then creates six First Move options — one for each mode (Write It, Draw It, Say It, Think It, Build It, Hear It) — each written at Framework, Add On, and Boost level.

Everything is tailored to your text, your question, and your class.

What This Gives You

A predictable, emotionally safe start to every lesson

Tasks that work for KS3, KS4, and KS5

Built-in differentiation without stigma

A way to settle the room without busywork

A structure that supports neurodiverse learners

A consistent SBE tone your students will recognise and trust

And because every First Move is low-stakes and choice-based, students begin the lesson feeling capable — not judged.

How to Use It in the Classroom

Display the First Move on your board as students enter.

Let them choose their starting option.

Take the register, greet students, and settle the room while they begin.

Use their responses as a bridge into modelling, guided practice, or discussion.

The First Move isn't an add-on.

It's the first step in your lesson's rhythm.

Why Teachers Love It

It saves planning time.

It removes the pressure to “perform” immediately.

It builds confidence lesson by lesson.

It supports mixed-ability groups without labelling.

It keeps your teaching aligned with SBE's safeguarding-first ethos.

Most importantly, it helps every student feel:

“I can start. I know what to do. I'm safe to try.”

HOW TO BUILD YOUR FIRST MOVE LIBRARY

This walkthrough shows you how to build a calm, reliable library of First Moves you can return to throughout the year.

Everything here is designed to reduce cognitive load, reduce emotional load, and help you feel supported — not overwhelmed.

Let's explore it step by step.

1 Start with a Single Lesson

Open the First Move Generator and enter the details for your next English lesson:

- the text
- the writer
- the themes
- the character
- the question
- the exam level
- (optional) a seasonal theme

Choose whether you want a **student-facing** or **teacher-facing** version.

Press **Generate**.

You'll see six First Move options — Write It, Draw It, Say It, Think It, Build It, Hear It — each written at Framework, Add On, and Boost level.

This is your starting point.

2 Choose the First Move You Want to Use Today

Pick the option that feels right for your class.

There's no hierarchy.

No "best" choice.

Just six equally valid ways to begin.

Display it on your board while students settle and you take the register.

3 Save It to Your Playlist

If you like the First Move you've chosen, click **Save to Playlist**.

The system will store:

- the text
- the theme
- the question
- the First Move type
- the FAB layer
- the date
- any class tags you add (e.g., "9X1", "Year 10 Set 2")
- your own notes

This becomes part of your personal teaching library — something you can return to again and again.

4 Organise Your Library Automatically

Your saved First Moves are sorted into a clear, predictable structure:

Key Stage → Text → First Move Type → FAB Layer

This means you can instantly find:

- all Framework tasks for Macbeth
- all Draw It tasks for KS3
- all Boost tasks for Power & Conflict
- everything you've used with a specific class

No hunting.

No scrolling.

No cognitive strain.

5 Reuse, Adapt, or Mix and Match

When you open your playlist, each saved First Move gives you three options:

- **Load to Board** — use it again immediately
- **Duplicate & Edit** — tweak it for a new class
- **Mark as Used** — keep a gentle record of when and with whom

Over time, you'll build a library that reflects your teaching style, your texts, and your classes.

6 Let the System Help You Avoid Repetition

If you generate a new First Move that's similar to one you've used before, the system will quietly let you know:

"You've used a similar First Move before. Would you like a fresh variation?"

No judgement.

No pressure.

Just a gentle nudge to keep things fresh.

7 Use Your Library to Lighten Your Planning Load

As your playlist grows, you'll find you can:

- plan faster
- reuse high-quality starters
- keep lessons consistent
- support mixed-ability groups without stigma
- maintain a calm, predictable rhythm across the year

Your First Move library becomes a companion — something that holds the shape of your teaching so you don't have to.

🌸 What You'll Notice Over Time

Students settle more quickly.

You feel calmer at the start of lessons.

Your planning becomes lighter.

Your teaching becomes more consistent.

Your classes begin to recognise the rhythm and trust it.

And you'll have a growing library of First Moves that feel unmistakably SBE:

warm, clear, emotionally intelligent, and safe.
