

Name:

Section:



Date:

Score:



How to Write a Hook



Out of the corner of my eye I saw the impossible—a leprechaun.

The first line of an essay or story is called the hook. This is the writer's chance to grab the reader's attention and entice the reader to read on. A common technique to hook a reader is to drop them into the middle of the action - similar to what I did in my opening line: Out of the corner of my eye I saw the impossible—a leprechaun.

Another technique is to surprise or shock your reader with a statistic or statement.

The average American eats 13 pounds of ice cream each year.

This makes for an intriguing hook because it is shocking, and causes the reader think, "hmm, I wonder what point the writer is trying to make?"

Still another technique is to use a rhetorical question. This is a question asked to create a dramatic effect, or to make a point rather than to get an answer. For example, you could write this:

Do we really want our planet to survive?

The answer to this question seems obvious - of course we want our planet to survive. And that is what makes this question a good hook. It causes the reader to wonder what point the writer is trying to make.

For the following activity, you are going to practice writing a 1-2 sentence hook on a given topic. For example, if your topic is scorpions - you could write:

As evening crept closer, a creature crept towards me. It was a scorpion glowing in the dark.

Or perhaps you could write:

As I watched TV - a scorpion stung my foot.

Or maybe you could say:

There are 30-40 species of scorpions that have the capacity to kill humans.

What you write for your hook is up to you. Just be sure your hook corresponds with the topic you are given.

You will have a total of 5 hooks to write. Let's begin.

Topic 1: Write a hook (or opening line) about a hat.

Topic 2: Write a hook (or opening line) about a spill.

Topic 3: Write a hook (or opening line) about a dog.

Topic 4: Write a hook (or opening line) about school.

Topic 5: Write a hook (or opening line) about video games.

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