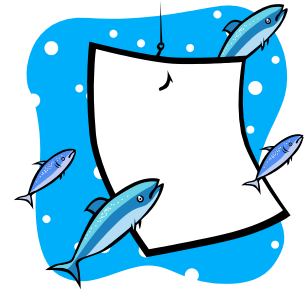


6 WAYS TO "HOOK" YOUR READER

Just like fishermen use a hook to catch fish, authors use different strategies to "catch" readers. One thing authors do is make their first sentence or two interesting for the reader. This makes the reader want to keep reading. Here are some suggestions to get you started with your own hooks.



- 1. Question:** This will get the reader thinking about your piece right from the beginning.
"What do you consider work? Homework? Yard work? Cleaning up that three-ring circus that is your bedroom?"
- 2. Dialogue:** Choosing an interesting dialogue sentence builds your character from the start. It really helps apply the "show, don't tell" rule.
"Hold on tight,' my dad yelled. We just finished buckling in as the coaster jerked into motion. This was my first roller coaster ride."
- 3. Interesting fact:** Tells the reader something they don't already know and makes them want to learn more. Works well with non-fiction.
"According to surveys, half of all adults believe in the supernatural and one person in ten claims to have seen a ghost."
- 4. Description of setting or character:** Helps the reader visualize the main character or setting.
"The huge vines wrapped around the ancient trees. The leaves were so thick they blocked out the sunlight. Small animals scampered along the forest floor."
- 5. Single word or onomatopoeia:** Creates a dramatic effect that makes your reader want to find out what the sound is or why the word is important.
"Boom! The shot rang out in the dark of the night, but no one could tell where it came from."
- 6. Strong opinion or feeling:** Lets your reader know where you stand right away.
"There's no such thing as ghosts!"