Strategies for Writing a Story Beginning

Same Story Five Different Beginnings

"Buzzzzzz!" The sound of my alarm clock droned in my ears as I struggled to come awake. With a start, I sat straight up in my bed. This was my big day. I had to be on time.

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Onomatopoeia

Shock has been known to kill ten year olds. It can cause their brains to explode and their heart to stop dead still. These facts raced through my mind as I stood dumbfounded in front of my fifth grade classmates. I wish I had stayed in bed!

Interesting Fact

The sun was warm on my back as I raced toward the waiting yellow school bus. As I nestled into the worn leather seat, I was greeted by the friendly voices of other excited kids. The look on my face was one of confidence and contentment. With a jerk, the bus rumbled down the road and I was on my way to one of the worst days of my life.

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Vivid Description

Have you ever had a day when you wished you had stayed in bed? As I rushed to catch the bus on what seemed to be a perfectly normal day, I had no idea what was ahead of me.

Question

"Hurry or you'll be late!" called my mother from the bottom of the stairs. "Today of all days you want to be on time." If I had only know what that day would bring, I would have stayed in bed.

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Dialogue

Book Units Teacher

Create a paragraph of 40 to 50 words each for the 5 different types of 'Hooks' that you have learned.

Scenarios:
1) A group of friends discovers an ancient artifact buried in their schoolyard.
2) A young detective is assigned to solve a series of mysterious disappearances in a small town.
3) A struggling musician receives an anonymous letter containing lyrics to a song that becomes an overnight sensation.
4) A family inherits a seemingly ordinary-looking house, only to discover it holds a hidden treasure map within its walls.
5) A lone survivor wakes up in a post-apocalyptic world with no memory of how they got there or what caused the downfall of society.

Scenario selected: _____

Hook 1: *Onomatopoeia/ Sound effect*

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No. of words:

Hook 2: *Question*

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Hook 3: *Dialogue*

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No. of words:

Hook 4: *Vivid Description*

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No. of words:

Hook 5: *Interesting fact*

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Writing your introduction (Narrative Hooks)

Task 2a

1. **Identify the type of hook used.**
2. **Identify the features related to the hook by underlining/ circling them. If possible, explain them.**
3. **Discuss the hook's effectiveness.**

1.

"I heard there's something strange about that old house at the end of the street," whispered Sarah, her voice barely above a murmur.

"What do you mean?" asked Jake, his curiosity piqued.

"They say it's haunted," Sarah replied, her eyes wide with fear. "But nobody knows for sure."

Jake scoffed. "Haunted? Sounds like nonsense to me."

Hook: _____

Explain the features: _____

Why is the hook effective? _____

2.

What if everything you knew about the world was a lie? That was the question that haunted Emily as she stumbled upon an old photograph tucked away in her grandmother's attic. In the faded image, a figure lurked in the shadows, its face obscured by darkness. Who was this mysterious stranger, and what secrets did they hold? With trembling hands, Emily embarked on a journey to uncover the truth, unaware of the dangers that lay ahead.

Hook: _____

Explain the features: _____

Why is the hook effective? _____

3.

> The forest was alive with the symphony of nature's orchestra. Birds chirped merrily, their songs echoing through the trees like a melodic chorus. The rustle of leaves underfoot provided a rhythmic accompaniment, while a gentle breeze whispered secrets through the branches. Suddenly, a crackling snap shattered the tranquil harmony, sending a cascade of panicked rustlings through the underbrush. Something was lurking in the shadows, its presence announced by the ominous growl that reverberated through the air.

Hook: _____

Explain the features: _____

Why is the hook effective? _____

4.

> The old mansion stood atop the hill like a brooding sentinel, its crumbling façade a testament to a bygone era. Ivy clung to its weathered walls like a lover's embrace, while the scent of damp earth lingered in the air, mingling with the faint aroma of ancient wood. Windows, long since shattered, gaped like hollow eyes, casting eerie shadows across the overgrown lawn. A sense of foreboding hung heavy in the air, as if the very walls themselves held whispered secrets of long-forgotten tragedies.

Hook: _____

Explain the features: _____

Why is the hook effective? _____

5.

> Did you know that every year, hundreds of ships mysteriously vanish in the Bermuda Triangle, never to be seen again? Legends swirl around this enigmatic stretch of ocean, where compasses spin wildly and radio signals fade into static. As the sun dips below the horizon, casting an eerie glow over the waves, sailors whisper tales of ghostly apparitions and strange phenomena. What secrets lie hidden beneath the surface of this infamous triangle?

Hook: _____

Explain the features: _____ LIVEWORKSHEETS