

Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster

Congratulations on your purchase of the Really Good Stuff® **Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster**, the perfect way to introduce your students to powerful writing leads.

Meeting Common Core State Standards

The Really Good Stuff® **Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster** aligns with the following English Language Arts Standards:

Writing Anchor Standards

Text Types and Purposes

3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Production and Distribution of Writing

5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- *Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster*
- This Really Good Stuff® Teaching Guide

A good story lead catches readers' attention and makes them want to continue reading. This poster offers student writers a variety of openers that are sure to engage their readers.

Displaying the Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster

Before displaying the *Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster*, make copies of this Really Good Stuff® Teaching Guide and file the pages for future use. Hang the poster where students can view and interact with it easily. Visit our Web site at www.reallygoodstuff.com to download Really Good Stuff® Teaching Guides.

Introducing the Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster

Share the poster with students, and explain that an engaging beginning to their stories helps "hook" readers, or get them interested in what they are reading. Fitting the hook to the topic or using a variety of hooks makes a writer's story even more compelling.

Have students refer to the poster as you introduce each type of lead and discuss how each one can stimulate interest and add something unique to the writing. Copy the *Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Recording Sheet* for student reference and practice.

Snapshot Leads

Describe the Setting or a Character:

Writers help readers see who their stories are about and where they take place. Open with a colorful description of a character or setting. Stay away from overused words.

My cousin and I met an old, shaggy-haired dog walking slowly on the wooded path.

The giant's shadow momentarily blocked out the sun.

Use Sound Words:

Start with a sound to get readers to think about where it came from. Describe the sound, and then tell where it came from.

Whoosh, crackle, thud! The gust of wind broke the branches of the old tree.

Use a Simile or Metaphor:

Compare two unlike things or concepts to create a unique beginning.

Jake clung like a clam to his surfboard as the wave approached.

The sun was a roaring ball of fire.

Action Leads

Describe a Scary, Exciting, or Intense Moment:

Jump right into the action. Start with the most exciting or scariest moment.

The roller coaster came barreling down the track at a speed that blurred everything.

Use Strong Feelings or Emotions:

My hands trembled as I ripped open the mysterious package.

Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster

Talking Leads

Write a Dialogue Between Characters:

Start with an intense moment between characters. Give enough information to hook the reader, and then let the story unfold.

“Hand it over!” demanded Agent Brown.

“But the file is not here,” retorted Michael.

Think Out Loud. Use Internal Monologue:

Take the reader into the mind of a character. Make it a thought that reveals something interesting or exciting.

“I can’t give up now! I’m almost at the finish line.”

Recount a Memory:

Go back in time and recall an impactful moment.

My most terrifying moment happened nearly two years ago.

Questioning Leads

Start with a Riddle:

Use humor to hook your reader. Tie it to the rest of the story.

What is the strongest creature in the sea? A mussel.

Ask a Question or a String of Questions:

Start with a question, and then give the answer.

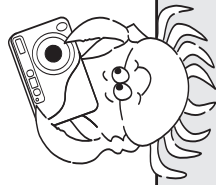
Have you ever imagined flying over the Grand Canyon as a bird? or swimming deep in the ocean as a gray whale?

Before each writing assignment, remind students to review the writing hooks on the poster and decide which type of lead would work well for their story. When meeting with students about their writing, encourage them to explain how their lead contributed to the story.

Related Really Good Stuff® Products

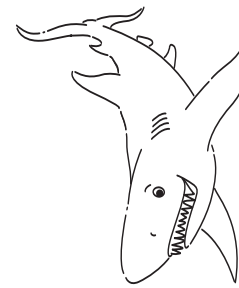
Bold, Mighty, and Exciting Writing Poster Set (#157608)

Name _____



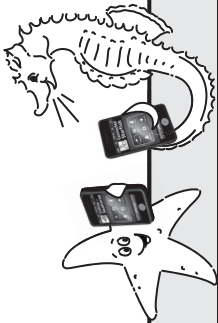
Hook Your Readers with Good Leads

Snapshot Leads		
<p>Describe the character or setting.</p> <p>The giant's shadow momentarily blocked out the sun.</p>	<p>Use sound words.</p> <p>Whoosh, crackle, thud! The gust of wind broke the branches of the old tree.</p>	<p>Use a simile or metaphor.</p> <p>The sun was a roaring ball of fire.</p>



Action Leads	
<p>Describe a scary, exciting, or intense moment.</p> <p>The roller coaster came barreling down the track at a speed that blurred everything.</p>	<p>Use strong feelings or emotions.</p> <p>My hands trembled as I ripped open the mysterious package.</p>

Name _____



Hook Your Readers with Good Leads

Talking Leads		
<p>Write a dialogue between characters.</p> <p><i>“Hand it over!” demanded Agent Brown. “But the file is not here,” retorted Michael.</i></p>	<p>Think out loud. Use internal monologue.</p> <p><i>“I can’t give up now! I’m almost at the finish line.”</i></p>	<p>Recount a memory.</p> <p><i>My most terrifying moment happened nearly two years ago.</i></p>

Questioning Leads	
<p>Start with a riddle.</p> <p><i>What is the strongest creature in the sea? A mussel.</i></p>	<p>Ask a question or a string of questions.</p> <p><i>Have you ever imagined flying over the Grand Canyon as a bird?</i></p>

