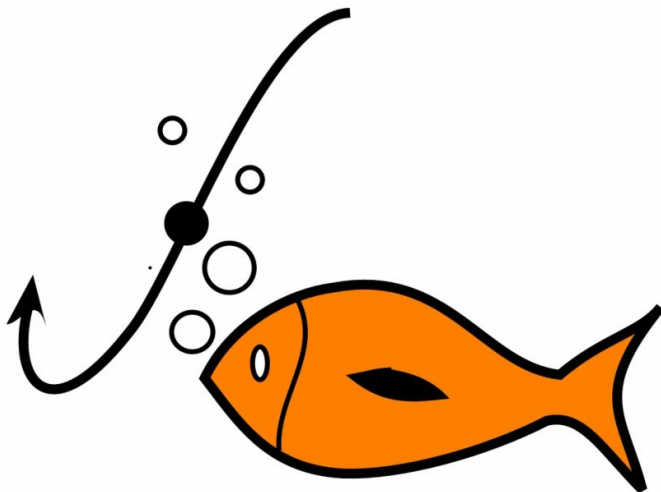


# Hook Strategies

In this lesson we will learn about how to start writing a short story! The best way to begin any kind of writing is with a hook.

**What is a hook?** A hook is the first sentence(s) of a piece of writing or work. Its purpose is to catch the reader's attention and make them interested in learning more. The word "hook" comes from the image of a fishing hook used to catch fish



## A hook is important for these 4 reasons:

### 1 - Surprising and Dramatic Information

Unusual information can shock your reader and gain their attention -- even if they don't believe the fact you're sharing.

### 2 - Create an Emotional Pull

People are naturally emotional. Make your reader care by writing intimate feelings of a character, or show an emotional scene such as domestic violence, war, or a fight between a parent and child.

### 3 - Build Tension

Your readers want to know what will happen. Good hooks create tension by raising the risks for the characters. You might open your story with a serious dilemma that a main character has a limited time to solve.

### 4 - Avoid Boring Your Readers

The wrong perspective can destroy a good hook. Avoid giving readers too much description or back story. This may bore or confuse them. Limit your hook to the most interesting and compelling information.

# 6 Hooks for Creative Writing...

When writing a short story you should use one of these types of hooks to start. The length of the hook is usually about one sentence, but look at the examples on the next page to get an idea how they are used.

## **Question**

Use the words who, what, when, where, why, is, how, or are at the beginning of the sentence.

## **Quote**

It can be a direct quotation from a book, TV show, movie, or a famous person.

## **Onomatopoeia**

Onomatopoeia is a word that makes sounds. Those can be animal sounds, car sounds, or any other sound. Examples include: Bang! Woof! or Cock-a-doodle-doo!

## **Interjection**

Interjections express emotions. Examples are Aha!, Stop!, Ugh!, Help!, Well!, YOW!, Brrrr!, Yummy!

## **Surprising Statistic**

Statistics show relationships with numbers. Find a surprising statistic involving your topic.

## **Dialogue**

Dialogue features two or more people talking.

Label each example with the correct hook type.

| <b>Hook Type</b> | <b>Example</b>   |
|------------------|--|
|                  | "Meoooooww!" said Gary, Spongebob's pet snail.   |
|                  | Where in the Pacific Ocean can you find a delicious Krabby Patty to eat, live in a pineapple, and drive in an underwater boat? Bikini Bottom, of course!       |
|                  | "There's nothing wrong with getting kisses from your grandmother," said Spongebob.<br>"No, especially if you're a big baby who wears diapers!" responded Fish. |
|                  | "Do you smell that? That smell--It's the smell of a smelly smell that smells smelly," stated Spongebob from the show Spongebob Squarepants.                    |
|                  | "Noooo!" Don't touch the TV, I am watching my favorite show, Spongebob Squarepants.  |
|                  | Over 1 million adults and children worldwide tune in to watch the TV show, Spongebob Squarepants on a weekly basis   |