



The teaching writing toolkit - How to help your pupils hook their reader

- Teach the children to keep the audience and purpose in mind and always ask “Did it work?”

Model how to:	by showing them how to:	Warn them against	Progressively teach the under-pinning grammar - Teach pattern of language implicitly before using explicit terminology.
Decide what effect you are trying to create	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think about audience and purpose and then select the right mood and approach 		
1. Change words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select precise words Name it Tighten the wording: Try something new 	Over writing: Using clichés	Nouns; verbs; adjectives; adverbs; determiners; pronouns
2. Add in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use adjectives & adverbs effectively (adverbs are more powerful) Drop in phrases and clauses 		adjectives; adverbs; adverbials; prepositions; relative pronouns and clauses; subordinate clauses
3. Add on phrases and clauses	Begin sentences with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ed-ing-ly starters subordinating conjunctions prepositional phrases 		adverbials at start of sentences; subordinate clauses; prepositional phrases
4. Show don't tell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make the reader picture the scene and experience the emotions 		
5. Change sentence type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure statements, questions, exclamations and orders 		Statement; question; exclamation; imperative
6. Vary sentence structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct simple, compound, complex and minor sentences Spin sentences round depending on the effect you want 		Subordinate and relative clauses; adverbials; conjunctions; subject; object active, passive
7. Use special effects or keep it deliberately plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sound effects: the rhythm of the sentences; onomatopoeia, alliteration Imagery: simile, metaphor, personification 	Over writing: Don't repeat except for special effect. .	nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs
8. Hook reader in opening paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move hook to front and jump straight in 		
9. Make every word, phrase, sentence earn its place -		Don't tell reader what already know Don't ramble – keep it focused	
10. Slow down at significant moments		Don't dash through – select what to focus on	

Model for children how to read their work aloud to hear if it works so they internalise how to craft and tune a text – teach them to assess their own work. Progressively co-construct How-to-hook-your-reader toolkits with the children. The final toolkit may look like this:

The How-to-hook-your-reader toolkit

Decide what effect you are trying to create	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think about audience and purpose and then select the right mood and approach 	
You might want to	How to do it	What to avoid
1. Change words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select precise words Name it <i>bird – flamingo; tree - oak</i> Try something new: <i>The sunny moon</i> 	<p>Don't over write: <i>The slinky shiny snake slithered slowly ...</i></p> <p>Avoid clichés: <i>The silvery moon</i></p>
2. Add in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use adjectives & adverbs effectively (adverbs are more powerful) Drop in phrases and clauses: <i>The cat, who was feeling particularly hungry, waited by its bowl.</i> 	Don't make sentences too complicated
3. Add on phrases and clauses	<p>Begin sentences with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ed-ing-ly starters <i>because, if, when, although, since</i> etc <i>In the..., on the ... under...; above... etc</i> 	
4. Show don't tell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make the reader picture the scene and experience the emotions. <p><u>Tell:</u> <i>He felt scared in the churchyard.</i></p> <p><u>Show:</u> <i>The shadows of the gravestones seemed to be following him.</i></p>	
5. Change sentence type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use questions, exclamations & bossy sentences as well as normal sentences: <i>Did you go near the canal? Not the canal! Don't go near the canal.</i> 	
6. Vary sentence structure	<p><u>Simple:</u> <i>She stared at the wall of fog blankly.</i></p> <p><u>Compound:</u> <i>She opened the curtains and stared at the wall of fog blankly.</i></p> <p><u>Complex:</u> <i>As soon as she opened the curtains, she stared blankly at the wall of fog.</i></p> <p><u>Minor:</u> <i>Fog.</i> <u>Begin with adverbial phrase:</u> <i>Opening the curtains, she stared at the fog.</i></p> <p>Spin sentences around depending on the effect you want</p>	
7. Use special effects or keep it deliberately plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sound effects: the rhythm of the sentences; onomatopoeia, alliteration Imagery: simile, metaphor, personification <p>Simile: <i>as red as blood</i></p> <p>Metaphor: <i>blood red</i></p>	Don't over write:
8. Hook reader in opening para	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move hook to front and jump straight in: <i>And don't you go near the canal! His mother's parting words rang in his ears as ...</i> 	
9. Make every word earn its place -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tighten the wording: <i>the blood was pouring – blood poured</i> 	<p>Don't repeat except for special effect.</p> <p>Don't ramble – keep focused</p>
10. Slow down at key moments		Don't dash through – select what to focus on

Always ask, "Did it work?"

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