



## 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.
<b>Decide what effect you are trying to create</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Think about audience and purpose and then select the right mood and approach</li> </ul>		
<b>1. Change words</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select precise words</li> <li>Name it</li> <li>Tighten the wording:</li> <li>Try something new</li> </ul>	<b>Over writing:</b> Using clichés	Nouns; verbs; adjectives; adverbs; determiners; pronouns
<b>2. Add in</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use adjectives &amp; adverbs effectively (adverbs are more powerful)</li> <li>Drop in phrases and clauses</li> </ul>		adjectives; adverbs; adverbials; prepositions; relative pronouns and clauses; subordinate clauses
<b>3. Add on phrases and clauses</b>	Begin sentences with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ed-ing-ly starters</li> <li>subordinating conjunctions</li> <li>prepositional phrases</li> </ul>		adverbials at start of sentences; subordinate clauses; prepositional phrases
<b>4. Show don't tell</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make the reader picture the scene and experience the emotions</li> <li></li> </ul>		
<b>5. Change sentence type</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structure statements, questions, exclamations and orders</li> </ul>		Statement; question; exclamation; imperative
<b>6. Vary sentence structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct simple, compound, complex and minor sentences</li> <li>Spin sentences round depending on the effect you want</li> </ul>		Subordinate and relative clauses; adverbials; conjunctions; subject; object active, passive
<b>7. Use special effects or keep it deliberately plain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sound effects: the rhythm of the sentences; onomatopoeia, alliteration</li> <li>Imagery: simile, metaphor, personification</li> </ul>	<b>Over writing:</b> Don't repeat except for special effect. .	nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs
<b>8. Hook reader in opening paragraph</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move hook to front and jump straight in</li> </ul>		
<b>9. Make every word, phrase, sentence earn its place -</b>		Don't tell reader what already know Don't ramble – keep it focused	
<b>10. Slow down at significant moments</b>		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"> <li>Think about audience and purpose and then select the right mood and approach</li> </ul>	
<b>You might want to</b>	<b>How to do it</b>	<b>What to avoid</b>
1. <b>Change words</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select precise words</li> <li>Name it <i>bird – flamingo; tree - oak</i></li> <li>Try something new: <i>The sunny moon</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Don't over write:</b> <i>The slinky shiny snake slithered slowly ...</i></p> <p><b>Avoid clichés:</b> <i>The silvery moon</i></p>
2. <b>Add in</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use adjectives &amp; adverbs effectively (adverbs are more powerful)</li> <li>Drop in phrases and clauses: <i>The cat, who was feeling particularly hungry, waited by its bowl.</i></li> </ul>	Don't make sentences too complicated
3. <b>Add on phrases and clauses</b>	<p>Begin sentences with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ed-ing-ly starters</li> <li><i>because, if, when, although, since</i> etc</li> <li><i>In the..., on the ... under...; above... etc</i></li> </ul>	
4. <b>Show don't tell</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make the reader picture the scene and experience the emotions.</li> </ul> <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. <b>Change sentence type</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use questions, exclamations &amp; bossy sentences as well as normal sentences: <i>Did you go near the canal? Not the canal! Don't go near the canal.</i></li> </ul>	
6. <b>Vary sentence structure</b>	<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. <b>Use special effects or keep it deliberately plain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sound effects: the rhythm of the sentences; onomatopoeia, alliteration</li> <li>Imagery: simile, metaphor, personification</li> </ul> <p>Simile: <i>as red as blood</i></p> <p>Metaphor: <i>blood red</i></p>	<b>Don't over write:</b>
8. <b>Hook reader in opening para</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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></li> </ul>	
9. <b>Make every word earn its place -</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tighten the wording: <i>the blood was pouring – <b>blood poured</b></i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Don't repeat</b> except for special effect.</p> <p><b>Don't ramble</b> – keep focused</p>
10. <b>Slow down at key moments</b>		<b>Don't dash through</b> – select what to focus on

Always ask, "Did it work?"

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