

Books need good hooks!



<p>The outrageous hook – this will make you do a double take. Did I really read that?</p>	<p><i>‘As Mrs Ebbel went over the correct answers with the class, Bradley took out his pair of scissors and very carefully cut his test paper into tiny squares.’</i></p> <p><i>There’s a Boy in the Girls’ Bathroom – Louis Sachar.</i></p>
<p>The puzzling hook – this immediately makes you ask questions of the story.</p>	<p><i>‘Lyra and her daemon moved through the darkening Hall, taking care to keep to one side, out of sight of the kitchen.’</i></p> <p><i>Northern Lights – Philip Pullman</i></p>
<p>The quotation hook – this can connect you with something you already know and it can make the writer seem more credible.</p>	<p><i>‘This tale is true and mine. It tells</i></p> <p><i>How the sea took me, swept me back</i></p> <p><i>And forth ... ‘</i></p> <p><i>from The Seafarer, in The Wanderer – Sharon Creech</i></p>
<p>The startling hook – this makes you think twice, but isn’t as shocking as the outrageous hook.</p>	<p><i>‘I disappeared on the night before my twelfth birthday.’</i></p> <p><i>Kensuke’s Kingdom – Michael Morpurgo</i></p>
<p>The direct address hook – you are spoken to directly and feel involved from the start.</p>	<p><i>‘I have a stone that looks like a snake: all curled up. It’s my most precious thing. I’ve had it since I was born, you see.</i></p> <p><i>Do you ever think about being born?’</i></p> <p><i>The Snake-stone – Berlie Dohert</i></p>

<p>The subtle hook – a bit like the startling hook, this appeals to your sense of curiosity. Who is she?</p>	<p><i>‘She started with the universe.’</i></p> <p><i>Counting Stars – David Almond</i></p>
<p>The atmospheric hook – this is descriptive, and could evoke any variety of moods.</p>	<p><i>‘A cold, wet day in December. The worst kind of day for the backlands. The clouds were so low they seemed to trail their mists in the treetops and already, at half past three it was dark within the forest.’</i></p> <p><i>The Giant Under the Snow – John Gordon</i></p>
<p>The visual hook – appeals to our sense of sight.</p>	<p><i>‘Our classroom looked smashing. Lots of silver tinsel and crepe paper and lanterns.’</i></p> <p><i>A Northern Childhood – George Layton</i></p>
<p>The funny hook – this is a tricky hook and only works if it appeals to your sense of humour.</p>	<p><i>‘When Bill Simpson woke up on Monday morning, he found he was a girl. He was standing, staring at himself in the mirror, quite baffled, when his mother swept in.</i></p> <p><i>‘Why don’t you wear this pretty pink dress?’ she said.’</i></p> <p><i>Bill’s New Frock – Anne Fine</i></p>
<p>The question hook – you want to read on to find the answer.</p>	<p><i>‘How does one describe Artemis Fowl?’</i></p> <p><i>Artemis Fowl – Eoin Colfer</i></p>
<p>The direct speech hook – this implies lots of action and a fast pace.</p>	<p><i>‘I don’t care if your friend Darren has a python, a cockatoo and a marmoset monkey,’ said mum, ‘the answer’s still no.’</i></p> <p><i>Jake’s Magic – Alan Durant</i></p>