



Resource

Hook Your Kids into Your Lesson

Hooks are 1 to 5 minutes long and happen at the beginning of class. The purpose is to get your students' attention so they are engaged. Hooks make the abstract concept of your lesson clearer. Make your hook relevant to what you are teaching. Here are some examples of a hook. I recommend rotating through a different one each day!

METAPHOR

Compare the aim to something unlike the aim.

- *How is lesson planning like making a meal for your family?*
- *Why are great classrooms put together like a casino?*
- *How is an author like a hypnotist? (When teaching author's intention)*
- *How is a theme like a spool of thread?*

PROPS

Use a prop as a metaphor.

In an eighth grade class, Mike, a former KIPP Infinity teacher, held up a package of old candy that he found in his desk. The bag was bursting full, and

SURPRISE HOOK

Catch students off guard, then link to the day's aim.

Amber started the class by telling students that since the principal is really disappointed that a few students aren't following uniform policy, he decided that the teachers could use whatever consequence they thought would fix the problem. Amber shared that teachers decided that if one student breaks uniform policy, then the entire class will have lunch and afterschool detention. The kids understandably freaked out. After the class calmed down, she asked them what they would do differently to solve that problem. She connected it to the day's lesson of determining whether or not characters are choosing the best solutions to problems.

Choose a different hook each day—and only one! Remember to keep them under five minutes or you will cut into your independent reading time.

113. "Test Your Awareness: You Do the Test," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ahg69cgoay4>.