

HOOKS

The following are different types of HOOKS used by writers. HOOKS are meant to GRAB YOUR READERS' ATTENTION, PEAK YOUR READER'S INTEREST, and TIE TOGETHER YOUR ESSAY. HOOKS are especially effective when they RELATE TO the THEME and are PRESENT IN THE INTRODUCTION, BODY, and ESPECIALLY THE CONCLUSION of the essay. A HOOK that only occurs in the introduction or is NOT PERTINENT TO the essay's THESIS IS INEFFECTIVE.

EXAMPLES OF HOOKS

FACT OR FIGURE:

Introduction:

Over seventy-five percent of teenagers in one survey said that they have difficulty asking their parents about issues that affect their lives on a daily basis. Of that seventy-five percent it is estimated that over fifty percent will sever relations with their parents for a time with their siblings or parents. And all this because of a lack of communication. Kelly's short story explores the family communication breakdown. In "A Visit to Grandmother" one of the major themes is that poor communication between the child and his parents early in life will cause serious emotional and psychological problems for that child later in life. Three examples in Kelly's short story show this.

Conclusion:

The statistics of the family breakdown in our nation are staggering. If we continue our current trend of familial separation, we not only suffer individually but collectively as well. The strength of a family can be gauged by its ability to communicate. In the short story "A Visit to Grandmother" Kelly shows us that lack of communication and its affects upon the individual, the entire family, and society. . . .

STORY:

Introduction:

I remember as a child of six or seven little Joey Johnson. I thought he was the coolest, toughest kid in class. One time Joey came to school with a big black eye. It was blue, green, and yellow around the outside, and it was super-swollen. Joey told us he'd been in a fight with an older kid who, according to Joey, looked even worse than him. I was so impressed that I wished I could get in a fight and get a "shiner" like Joey's. It was much later in life that I learned Joey had been beaten to death by his father. I never even suspected. I often think, "If only I could

have seen beyond the surface to the inside of Joey, I might have been able to help.” Like my experience with Joey, Heinrich Boll’s “The Laugher” shows the idea that although events or people may appear one way, the truth lies beneath the surface, and we must all strive to see beyond the external if we ever wish to understand and help one another.

Conclusion:

Little Joey Johnson made Boll’s idea clear to me. The little tough kid I so admired turned out to be living in hell, an entirely different life than I perceived. Inside that tough exterior was a child crying out for help and guidance. If someone had only looked beyond the surface and seen the emotional scars of that desperate little boy, then maybe Joey would still be here today. Boll shows us this in “The Laugher”

USE A QUESTION:

Introduction:

Why does humanity continually repeat its mistakes? Why does war plague every generation? Why do we continually destroy the world around us? Why is life sacrificed in the name of “progress”? These questions point to one of the major themes in Stephenson’s “Leiningen Versus the Ants.” One of the major themes of the story is that humanity is unable to weigh its actions with those actions’ consequences, and, as a result, humanity unwittingly brings about its own demise.

Conclusion:

Stephenson shows us, through Leiningen, why humanity repeats its mistakes; why war plagues every generation; why we destroy our environment; and why life is sacrificed in the name of “progress.” We do this simply because we fail to learn from our past, and by using the past we look to the future and the consequences our decisions bring. Leiningen certainly didn’t heed the advice of the Brazilian official who, we discern, must have had experience with this natural phenomenon previously. Leiningen failed to listen to history. In his failure to listen lives were lost in the name of “progress,” Leiningen’s own selfish “progress.”

USE A QUOTATION:

Introduction:

A poet once wrote, “Tis distance lends enchantment to the view, / And robes the mountain in its azure hue.” In writing this, the poet points to the idea that from a distance something may appear wonderful, but when one examines something more closely, he sees the blemishes, the imperfections, or the reality of that which he views. In “The Laugher” one of the

major themes is that although people may appear to be one way from a distance, a closer examination reveals the truth about that person, moving one beyond mere externals. . . .

Conclusion:

We are each mountains with beauty and majesty, that beauty and majesty being our unique talents and gifts. But just as every mountain climber can see the blemishes, the rocky crags, and the dangerous precipices, so every one of us has blemishes, faults and weaknesses. It is easy to only see the “enchanted view” of which the poet speaks. However, we must strip away the “robe” so that we can see each other as we truly are with both strengths and weaknesses. Only then can we grow and learn, helping ourselves and those around us to see each other for who we really are. In turn, we can then create deeper relationships and foster compassion and sympathy for one another. . . .

USE A FAMOUS PERSON:

Introduction:

Marilyn Monroe was one of the hottest sex symbols during the fifties and early sixties. Her blonde hair and full figure made her the envy of men and women alike. Women were suddenly going blonde, and any clothing Marilyn wore found itself in demand across the nation. But as biographers point out, Marilyn Monroe’s fame, glamour, and success was the bright side of a very dark and brooding individual. Monroe turned to drugs, which inevitably lead to her death by overdose. Her constant bouts with depression were a constant undercurrent to the seemingly happy and successful life of a mega-star. Sadly, Monroe lost herself. She was unable to maintain her own identity because she was wrapped up in being what others wanted her to be. Her self-esteem was low, and she never could capture her own identity after her rise to fame.

Gwendolyn Brooks’ story “Maud Martha Sparing the Mouse” deals with self-esteem. One of the major themes of the story is that one must be able to maintain one’s self-identity and build up that identity’s confidence from within. . . .

Conclusion:

Monroe forgot who she was and where she came from, and, as a result, she forgot her talents and gifts, her personhood. Just like Maud Martha, Monroe’s perception of herself was the perception of a person with no self-worth. The difference between Monroe and Martha is that Martha overcomes her lack of confidence through interaction with the mouse by placing on the mouse her problems. This allows Martha to overcome her problems by objectively analyzing her life and then reaching conclusions about her life and her self. . . .

USE A DEFINITION:

Introduction:

Initiation is defined as "a rite of passage." In "Shaving," by Leslie Norris, Barry goes through an initiation into adulthood. One of the major themes of "Shaving" is that rituals are an important part of coming of age because they symbolically serve as transitions into responsibility and closures to the way of a child.

Conclusion:

Rites of passage are integral to the making adults. Tradition and ritual are a part of society. In "Shaving" we see the move from child to adult and from innocence to responsibility through Barry's act of shaving his ailing father.
