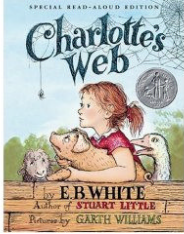
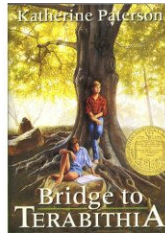


A Chapter Book Mini Lesson

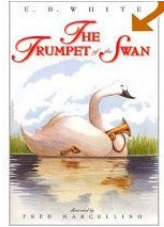
Focus: Leads



Title: Charlotte's Web
 Author: E. B. White
 ISBN: 9-780545-001885
 Pages: 1
 Grade Levels: Most



Title: Bridge to Terabithia
 Author: Katherine Patterson
 ISBN: 0-590-13200-8
 Pages: 1
 Grade Levels: Most



Title: Trumpet of the Swan
 Author: E. B. White
 ISBN: 0-439-83103-2
 Pages: 1
 Grade Levels: Most

Title of Lesson:

Leads

Interesting Beginnings to stories

By David Stoner,
 IUSWP Co Director

Short Description:

Students need to practice writing the beginning to their stories. Students need to understand that a writer has one shot to grab a reader's attention. Barry Lane describes a lead as a "flashlight shining down through the story".

The Lesson:

1. Model the Leads from the three chapter books listed above. Lead a discussion of why a reader might want to continue reading these three books. Talk about the different ways these authors began their stories. For example, E. B. White began *Charlotte's Web* with a question. It was also written in dialogue form. The reader most likely would wonder too, where was papa going with the axe and what would he do with it. The chances are very good that a reader would be "hooked" and continue with the book.
2. Invite students to revisit a draft from their portfolio and rewrite the lead. Suggest they then have a peer conference and get feedback about how well they "teased" the reader.
3. Bring any leads that were written to share and discuss the attempts that were made. Celebrate successes. Be sure to make copies to use in future mini lessons. See page to for a look at my flipchart lesson.


Chapter book Examples:

1. "Where's papa going with that ax? Said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.
 By E. B. White, *Charlotte's Web*
2. *Ba-room, Ba-room, Ba-room, baripty, baripty, baripty, baripty,* - Good. His dad had the pickup going. He would get up now. Jess slid out of bed into his overalls. He didn't worry about a shirt because once he began running he would be as hot as popping grease even if the morning air was cool...
 By Katherine Patterson, *Bridge to Terabithia*
3. Walking back to camp through the swamp, Sam wondered whether to tell his father what he had seen. "I know one thing," he said to himself. "I'm going back to that little pond again tomorrow. And I'd like to go alone. If I tell my father what I saw today, he will want to go with me. I'm not sure that's a very good idea"

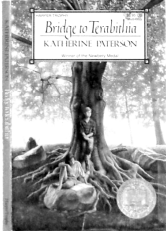
This is a photo of a flipchart mini lesson that can also be used as a blackline master.

LEADS

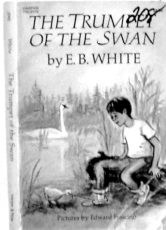
1/ ✓ Question Dialogue Tension/Teaser

 "Where's Papa going with that ax?" said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.

2/ ✓ Onomatopoeia Alliteration Jumping In the Middle

 Ba-room, ba-room, ba-room, baripity, baripity, baripity, baripity — Good. His dad had the pickup going.

3/ ✓ Tension/Teaser Internal Dialogue

 Walking back to camp through the swamp, Sam wondered whether to tell his father what he had seen. "I know one thing," he said to himself. "I'm going back to that little pond again tomorrow. And I'd like to go alone. If I tell my father what I saw today, he'll want to go with me. I'm not sure that's a good idea."

Clean, full size copy can be downloaded from <http://zzwriter.com/downloads/leads.jpeg>

A Chapter Book Mini Lesson

Focus: Leads