Lesson 4: Get Your Reader Curious

UNIT: Earth Explorers

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Margaret.

My friend Lucy loves to learn about amazing places all over the world. She's been working on making a poster to become an Earth Explorer at the visitor center in her town.

Recently, Lucy was hanging out at the visitor center. She took a look at some of the other posters already in the exhibit.

She saw one poster about a place called the Waitomo Caves, and she started to read.

Imagine walking into the entrance of a cave and seeing an amazing light show above your head—twinkling blue lights shine all over the ceiling of the cave. These caves are called the Waitomo Caves. They are an amazing and unique place to visit.

Wow! Lucy is so curious to learn more about the Waitomo Caves. You may have some questions about them, too.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What questions do you have about the Waitomo Caves?

HOOK 2

Maybe you wondered what is making the lights in the ceiling of the caves. Or maybe you were curious about where these caves are located. You may have had other questions too, and that's great.

This poster made Lucy feel curious and excited to learn more about the Waitomo Caves. Lucy wants the readers of her poster to feel like this, too.

Writers can use different strategies to get their readers curious about a topic. Sometimes, writers will ask the reader a question, like this: "Have you ever seen a cave that can glow?"

Or writers get readers curious by telling them a surprising fact: "The Waitomo Caves began forming over 30 million years ago."

Or writers can help their reader picture something in their mind: "Imagine walking into the entrance of a cave and seeing an amazing light show above your head."

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: Which of these sentences gets you the most curious to learn more about the Waitomo Caves? Why?

HOOK 3

I don't know what you said, but any of these strategies are a great way to get readers curious about a topic.

Lucy read more of the poster to learn about the Waitomo Caves. It turns out the Waitomo Caves are home to a type of glowworm. See how the end of the worm glows here?

Every single light on the ceiling is actually a baby worm. Wow! The Waitomo Caves are so fun to learn about and a little gross.

Right now, you're working on a poster about an amazing place, too. The Firefall or the Sky Mirror. You already know a lot about both of these places. But whoever reads your poster may have never heard of these places before.

To get your reader curious, you can write an introduction for your poster. You can start with a question, a surprising fact, or ask your reader to imagine being there. Any of these strategies will get your reader interested and excited about your topic. Then later on, you'll write a conclusion for the end of your poster.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone knows who their talk partner is, move on to the next step.

STEP 3

Get your Explorer Notes worksheet. Fold your worksheet so that the place you circled is face up on your desk.

Read your notes quietly to yourself. When you're done, show a silent thumbs up.

STEP 4

Take a look at the "Introduction" section of your worksheet. An introduction gets the reader curious to read more, and it gives a preview of what the rest of the writing will be about.

Let's start by getting your reader curious. There are many strategies you can use to get your reader curious. Writers often try a few strategies before picking one. The first strategy is to ask your reader a question.

You might ask, "Have you ever wanted to walk on the sky?" Or, "Did you know there's a waterfall that looks like it's on fire?"

Discuss with your partner: What is a question you could ask your reader to get them curious about your place?

You can use one of these to start your question if you want.

STEP 5

Let's try another strategy. You can begin by telling your reader a surprising fact about your place. You can use a surprising fact from your notes or use one that is on screen.

Discuss with your partner: What is the surprising fact about your place that could get your reader curious?

STEP 6

Another strategy is to have your reader imagine or picture your place in their mind. You can do that by describing what it looks like.

Discuss with your partner: How would you describe your place to a reader so they can picture it in their mind?

STEP 7

You just practiced three ways for getting your reader curious. Any of these strategies would be great ways to start an introduction.

Write a sentence to get your reader curious. If you want, you can write more than one sentence. Begin writing at the arrow.

STEP 8

Now that your reader is curious, they need to know what the rest of your poster will be about or a preview of your writing. Add a sentence that lets them know the name of your place and that they're going to learn all about it.

You can use one of these sentences if you want or come up with your own. Continue writing where you left off.

HOOK 4

Great job, writers! You now have an introduction that will get your reader curious to learn more about your place.

Then they can read all the facts and information in your body paragraphs.

Finally, the last thing they will read is your conclusion.

After someone reads your poster, they might not remember every single thing, but you can help them remember the most important facts.

Think about everything you know about the place that you're writing about.

DISCUSSION 4

Discuss: What are the most important facts that you want your reader to remember?

HOOK 5

As the writer, you get to decide which things you want your reader to remember the most. Maybe you want them to remember how cool your place looks, or how it works, or something else.

When writers are finishing up a piece of writing, they add a section that helps their reader remember the most important parts of the writing. This section is called a *conclusion*. It's where you can review the facts or details that you want your reader to remember the most and help them stay curious.

Today, you'll write a conclusion for your poster. After that, the first draft of your poster will be complete.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 9

Get your supplies.

STEP 10

Get your Paragraph 1 and 2 worksheets.

Take a few minutes to read what you already wrote. When you're done, show a silent thumbs up.

STEP 11

Get your Introduction and Conclusion worksheet.

To begin your conclusion, you can restate a few facts that you think are the most important to remember. You can use one of these sentence starters if you want.

Begin writing at the arrow.

STEP 12

Nice job! Now your reader will be reminded of the most important parts of your writing.

A great way to end a conclusion is to encourage your reader to stay curious about the world. You might tell your reader to learn more about your place or keep exploring amazing places on Earth.

You can use one of these or come up with your own. Continue writing where you left off.

WRAP UP

Amazing job, writers! You now have a complete draft of your poster.

You have an introduction that will get readers curious about your place, two body paragraphs full of lots of facts and information, and a conclusion that restates the most important parts and encourages your reader to stay curious.

There might be parts of your poster that you're not sure about or aren't exactly how you want them yet, and that's okay. In the next lesson, you'll edit your writing and make changes so it is exactly how you want it to be. Then you'll assemble your poster so that each part can lift and reveal each section of your writing.

Remember to put your V.I.P.s somewhere safe, and I'll see you next time.