**Paragraphs and Hooks**

**Paragraphs:**

A common error in student work is forgetting to start a new paragraph and handing in a wall of text as an assignment. That is not good because it is hard to read and thoughts get lost. Your short story must have paragraphs.

When to start a new paragraph:

* Dialogue: Whenever a new or different character speaks, you must start a new paragraph.
* Something New: Whenever you switch point of view, location, time, or topic, you must start a new paragraph.
* Break: Whenever you think your readers might need a pause in their reading, you should start a new paragraph.
* Length: If the paragraph is longer than it is wide, start a new paragraph.
* Emphasis: If you want a certain thought or idea or statement to stand out to the reader, put it in a new paragraph on its own.

**Hooks:**

If you want your reader to keep reading your story, you need to catch their attention. This is called a hook.

How to hook your reader:

* In medias res: This means in the middle of things. If you start your story in the middle of an important scene, the reader is more likely to want to continue reading.
* Question: Make some kind of statement that will lead your reader to wonder what’s happening or what those first lines mean.
* Description: Without being overly descriptive, describe a scene to your readers that will encourage their imagination.
* Character: If your protagonist is interesting, that should draw your reader in.