

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 6, Lesson 16

Teacher Packet

Lesson Objective

We will begin reading the text “A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”. We will analyze how the author uses a hook to introduce the central idea that sticky rice is an important part of Laotian culture and daily life.

Today, we will focus on paragraphs 1-6 of the text. You will need a piece of paper and something to write with.

Before we get into the text, we will learn a little about the country of Laos.

Notes Template

Central Idea	
Hook	
Why did the author choose this hook for the central idea?	

Where in the world is Laos?



Facts About Laos



Source: [CIA World Factbook](#)

Capitol- Vientiane (highest population with 567,000 people. For comparison, Nashville has a population of approximately 670,000 people).

Population- Approximately 7.5 million people live in Laos (Tennessee has a population of 6.8 million)

Languages Spoken: Lao (Official), French, and English

How does an author “hook” a reader?

- Question
- Anecdote/Story
- Statement

Notes Template

Central Idea	Sticky rice is an important part of Laotian culture and daily life.
Hook	
Why did the author choose this hook for the central idea?	

A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos' National Dish

One cannot travel to the Southeast Asian country without many meals of sticky rice, the versatile staple of Laotian cuisine

By Mike Ives, Smithsonian.com, February 01, 2011

1. Luck was losing patience, and his stomach was grumbling like the diesel engine of the bus transporting him to northern Laos. He needed to eat sticky rice, he said, so badly!



Source: [Sticky Rice](#)

L16-G

Notes Template

Central Idea	Sticky rice is an important part of Laotian culture and daily life.
Hook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">“Luck was losing patience, and his stomach was grumbling...”
Why did the author choose this hook for the central idea?	

Notes Template

Central Idea	Sticky rice is an important part of Laotian culture and daily life.
Hook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Luck was losing patience, and his stomach was grumbling...”• Luck wanted to eat sticky rice.
Why did the author choose this hook for the central idea?	

A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos' National Dish

2. He checked his cellphone: No service. Slumping into his seat, he looked out the windows — but it was mid-November in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and in field after field, Laotian farmers were harvesting sticky rice and burning the discarded husks for fertilizer. Luck sighed. The smoky air carried a sweet, ricey aroma.

Sticky Rice Husks



Source: [Rice Husks](#)

Notes Template

Central Idea	Sticky rice is an important part of Laotian culture and daily life.
Hook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Luck was losing patience, and his stomach was grumbling...”• Luck wanted to eat sticky rice.• Farmers were harvesting sticky rice.
Why did the author choose this hook for the central idea?	

A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos' National Dish

3. It was the first day of a six-day, northbound journey from Vientiane, the tranquil capital, to a remote village near the Laos-China border. Luck—short for Vilayluck Onphanmany — is my 23-year-old Laotian friend and translator whom I'd met on my first of three previous trips to the landlocked Southeast Asian country. He was assisting a gastronomic investigation: a friend and I were on a mission to learn the secrets of sticky rice, the mainstay of Laotian cuisine, and in the process, to eat as much of it as possible.

Notes Template

Central Idea	Sticky rice is an important part of Laotian culture and daily life.
Hook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Luck was losing patience, and his stomach was grumbling...”• Luck wanted to eat sticky rice.• Farmers were harvesting sticky rice.• He was with the author and a friend to help them learn about sticky rice.
Why did the author choose this hook for the central idea?	<div>L16-M</div>

A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos' National Dish

4. When our bus rattled into a dusty market, a group of women crowded the windows. “Ao khao bor?” they called (“Do you want sticky rice?”). Luck snapped to attention and called for two bags — one for me and my traveling companion, and one for himself. We ate with our hands, Laotian-style. Luck finished his portion before the bus started rolling.
5. “I feel better!” he said, and promptly dozed off. Other passengers were either eating sticky rice or, like Luck, sleeping it off.

Notes Template

Central Idea	Sticky rice is an important part of Laotian culture and daily life.
Hook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Luck was losing patience, and his stomach was grumbling...”• Luck wanted to eat sticky rice.• Farmers were harvesting sticky rice.• He was with the author and a friend to help them learn about sticky rice.• Luck announces, “I feel better!” after he eats his sticky rice.
Why did the author choose this hook for the central idea?	

A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos' National Dish

6. What explains the national love of sticky rice? Many Laotians laughed when asked them. Sticky rice is what their grandparents and great-grandparents ate, they said. Perhaps they were caught off guard by my question: like baguettes in France and sushi in Japan, sticky rice is so ingrained in Laos' culinary heritage that most Laotians don't think about it in isolation.

Notes Template

Central Idea	Sticky rice is an important part of Laotian culture and daily life.
Hook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Luck was losing patience, and his stomach was grumbling...”• Luck wanted to eat sticky rice.• Farmers were harvesting sticky rice.• He was with the author and a friend to help them learn about sticky rice.• Luck announces, “I feel better!” after he eats his sticky rice.
Why did the author choose this hook for the central idea?	<p>The author uses the story about Luck to represent how Laotians feel about sticky rice and lets the reader know that the purpose for his (the author’s) trip is to learn about Laos and sticky rice. It is an interesting and impactful way to introduce the information.</p> <p>L16-Q</p>

How does an author “hook” a reader?

- Anecdote
- Statement
- Question

Vocabulary

- staple
- gastronomic
- cuisine
- culinary heritage

Independent Activity

For your independent activity for today's lesson:

- Write two new hooks for the beginning of the article “A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish.”
 - Write a statement hook and a question hook.
 - Use one of the vocabulary words that is listed in your notes for each hook that you write.
- After you have written the two hooks, write a brief explanation on which hook strategy—anecdote, statement, or question—you think is most effective for getting readers interested in the text we read today.