

Name: _____ Teacher: _____ School: _____

Grade 6: Lesson 16 This lesson, we read the first six paragraphs of the text “Sticky Rice.” We learned about an important food in Laos. Our focus was how an author uses a hook to introduce the central idea of a text.

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

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!

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.

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.

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.

“I feel better!” he said, and promptly dozed off. Other passengers were either eating sticky rice or, like Luck, sleeping it off.

What explains the national love of sticky rice? Many Laotians laughed when I 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	
Hook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••••
Why did the author select this hook for his central idea?	

Independent Practice:

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 listed in your notes for each hook that you write.

After you have written the 2 hooks, write a brief explanation on which hook strategy—anecdote, statement, or question—you think is most effective for getting readers interested in this text.

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