Interactive Bulletin Boards that Support Writing

Julie Patterson

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/iypw_articles

Part of the Creative Writing Commons, Curriculum and Instruction Commons, and the Elementary Education and Teaching Commons

Recommended Citation


This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Indiana Partnership for Young Writers at Digital Commons @ Butler University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Articles by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Butler University. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@butler.edu.
I am a sucker for art and teacher supply stores. Since I've typically been a visiting writer or the teacher-on-wheels who rotates between classrooms, I've rarely had the opportunity to create a bulletin board. But boy can I imagine what my students and I would build together if I had the space!

For starters, I'd always have one board that mimics a strategy I use in my writer's notebook. I'd teach the strategy and invite students to try it -- not only to try it in their notebooks but to post their ideas on the bulletin board as well. I'd choose a strategy that will serve students across genres so we can continue to fill the board for months at a time, just as I want them to re-use "old" strategies in their notebooks throughout the year, storing up ideas and inspiration for writing projects they haven't even thought of (or I haven't assigned) yet. After all, that's exactly what I do in my writer's notebook. Here are two ideas.

**Lines We Wish We'd Written**

This is a notebook strategy I'd teach early in the year, perhaps during a Writers' Life unit, though I can imagine it working in some Reading Like a Writer or Mentor Author units as well.

As I read, I'm always paying attention to what moves me -- makes me laugh, cry, cringe or otherwise hooks me, transports me to another reality. When I run across lines or phrases like this, I always jot them down in my writer's notebook. In fact, here are a few I found in old notebooks:

- "I am sure he must have been right, for he had blue spectacles and a bald head." - from *The Drowned* by Oscar Wilde
- "...drawing her breath in the darkness." - from *Babylon Revisited* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

I don't record every good line I read, just the ones that really, really send shivers down my spine at the moment, I find I can't encounter them. So on this collaborative bulletin board, I'd encourage students to add their own favorites that they encounter in the world -- in our read-alouds, independent reading, life outside of school, anywhere. Just be sure to teach students to include the author's name and title of the text; he or she deserves the credit for that great line!

**Lightning Verbs**

I'd teach "lightning verbs" as a revision minilesson in any genre studies and perhaps point out during a middle-school teaching point that we can keep a running list of lightning verbs in our writers' notebooks -- and on a new collaborative bulletin board in the classroom.

In my writer's notebook, I first encounter them. I'm always paying attention to what moves me as I read, I'm always paying attention to what moves me as I read, I'm always paying attention to what moves me as I read, I'm always paying attention to what moves me as I read. When I run across lines or phrases like this, I always jot them down in my writer's notebook. Here are two ideas:

- "I'm using the term "lightning verb" because of a quote I I'm using the term "lightning verb" because of a quote I I'm using the term "lightning verb" because of a quote I I'm using the term "lightning verb" because of a quote I found in old notebooks:
  - "I was sure he must have been right, for he had blue spectacles and a bald head." - from *The Drowned* by Oscar Wilde
  - "...drawing her breath in the darkness." - from *Babylon Revisited* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

- "...drawing her breath in the darkness." - from *Babylon Revisited* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

I don't record every good line I read, just the ones that really, really send shivers down my spine at the moment, I find I can't encounter them. So on this collaborative bulletin board, I'd encourage students to add their own favorites that they encounter in the world -- in our read-alouds, independent reading, life outside of school, anywhere. Just be sure to teach students to include the author's name and title of the text; he or she deserves the credit for that great line!

**Lightning Verbs**

I'd teach "lightning verbs" as a revision minilesson in any genre studies and perhaps point out during a middle-school teaching point that we can keep a running list of lightning verbs in our writers' notebooks -- and on a new collaborative bulletin board in the classroom.

In my writer's notebook, I first encounter them. I'm always paying attention to what moves me as I read, I'm always paying attention to what moves me as I read, I'm always paying attention to what moves me as I read. When I run across lines or phrases like this, I always jot them down in my writer's notebook. Here are two ideas:

- "I'm using the term "lightning verb" because of a quote I I'm using the term "lightning verb" because of a quote I I'm using the term "lightning verb" because of a quote I I'm using the term "lightning verb" because of a quote I found in old notebooks:
  - "I was sure he must have been right, for he had blue spectacles and a bald head." - from *The Drowned* by Oscar Wilde
  - "...drawing her breath in the darkness." - from *Babylon Revisited* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

- "...drawing her breath in the darkness." - from *Babylon Revisited* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

I don't record every good line I read, just the ones that really, really send shivers down my spine at the moment, I find I can't encounter them. So on this collaborative bulletin board, I'd encourage students to add their own favorites that they encounter in the world -- in our read-alouds, independent reading, life outside of school, anywhere. Just be sure to teach students to include the author's name and title of the text; he or she deserves the credit for that great line!