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Interactive Bulletin Boards that Support Writing

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I am a sucker for art and teacher supply stores. Since I've typically been visiting a 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 Writerly 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'm using the term "lightning verb" because of a quote I first encounter them. I don't record every good line I read, just the ones that really, really send shivers down my spine at the moment I first 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 mid-workshop teaching point that we can keep a running list of great verbs in our notebooks. ("In fact, here are a few I found in old notebooks:

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