

SPARKLING Sentences

powerful precision

I lost my favorite rock last night.
-Zachary

My favorite words are befuddle, befuddlement, and befuddle monster, huh huh oh no I can't breathe... must...huh...have...huh...a...huh...period. Much better.

-Lindsay Weingart - 6th grade

So if someone needs urgent help, I will be there fast.

-Shayna
3rd grade

precise language
cause and effect

My second choice would be teleportation.

-Josh Behn - 7th

I also like to say "boring" because I think this word is funny if you say it like this: "booooooooring."
-Danielle Eldor

She concentrates so much on the birds, if you touch her she will murp (combination between meow and purr) very loudly and looks at you, and if a bird flies away, she will run to the next window like it will be there.
-Miriam Stein

Q: Can you give me a definition of sparkling sentences?

- Desiree Stone, Killeen, TX
Teacher, 4th grade

A: ↘

You put one of their sentences up on the board or overhead and have everyone read it. "Let's look for what all this writer did to make this sentence so powerful," you say.

Listen to the children as they look to see what's good about the writing, and as they tell you what the writer did. "He put a period." "He started with a capital letter." Those will come first, if they're used to DOL. "I like the way he used this word.." someone will say, and you're off and running.

You don't have to tell them anything about what sparkling sentences are, just show them. You just look at individual sentences, maybe two a day, admire them, name the parts of them ("Oh look! This is called an appositive...") if they don't know them, and post them on the wall, with the students' names on them.

Does this help?
Gretchen

★ This one strategy may be the single most powerful change-agent of all the tricks in my writing book. -GB

Make sure to:

Weeping, she fell on her knees in the soft grass of the forest and prayed. -Marie
"Sir, our Air Force has been taken down!" said one toy soldier. -Isaiah
He craned his neck to see a small hand holding him down. -Fina

Notes:

9th grade examples

"Dang, this is harder than I thought," I told my sister. -Christopher
"What's this?" I asked as I picked up the mysterious cup. -Rachel
Her hair was soft and smooth, and her perfume smelled like cherry. -Brandon
What? You expect me to baby-sit on a Saturday! -Joseph
I could feel the air piercing my face. -Preston

MAKE SURE NOT TO:

For more information,
see Crunchtime, p. 84-87
and Reviving the Essay

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Gretchen Zernabel