

PICTURE THIS! *Teach students to read like writers*



Gifted & Talented teacher Gloria Horn has been encouraging the development of her Bailly Elementary (Chesterton, IN) students' incidental vocabulary. First, she set the tone for word collecting. She read *The Boy Who Loved Words* by Roni Schotter and *Max's Words* by Kate Banks. Her students then become word detectives. They were on the lookout for strong word choice within their everyday, incidental reading. Gloria then encouraged students to physically collect these new-found words. Each time a student came across a "good word" he wrote it on an index card and added it to the growing pool of words on the board. Gloria recognizes that to grow a student's writing vocabulary, you first have to grow a student's reading vocabulary. She is truly building wordsmiths—writers hungry to collect, learn, and utilize precise words! She doesn't stop there. Gloria added a third element to this fabulous display. She honors that it is not helpful to just know of a word, you have to know what it means. So each index card includes a kid-friendly definition plus a sentence using the word appropriately. WOW! What a powerful working board that grows all year long! Thanks for sharing, Gloria.