

## Why Play with Language When Writing?

In Ralph Fletcher's new book *Pyrotechnics on the Page: Playful Craft That Sparks Writing* (2010), Fletcher suggests that writers make language choices and sentence structure choices to reinforce the ideas being expressed.

### What are some reasons for using form to reinforce content?

- To emphasize a certain part of the text
- To highlight the idea
- To create the unexpected
- To add humor or surprise
- To slow down the pace
- To quicken the pace
- Just for fun and the love of word play

### A Classroom Lesson Suggestion

In your writer's workshop, discuss one or two of the above strategies for initial detail development or revision of ideas, being sure to provide mentor models as examples to read and discuss with your students.

### A School-Wide Initiative

Your school's English teachers may consider emphasizing one or two different strategies per grade level in order to ensure added rigor and strategy development for all students with each higher grade students.