

# Time to Spare

When you have incorporated the mini-lesson skill or strategy appropriately during writing time, and you have some time still remaining, it is important to fill that time with volume and variety in your writing and continue building on writing stamina. Here are some things that you can do:

- Reread your entry or draft carefully and make sure it sounds the way you intended. *Ask yourself: Will my readers feel like they shared this experience with me? Have I created an image for my readers? Are there places I need to go back to or things I forgot to include?*
- Revisit your Writer's Notebook and reread past entries. Decide if there is anything left unfinished. *Do I have more to say or add?*
- Choose an idea already written in one form in your notebook (e.g., story) and try it in another (e.g., poem).
- Reference your strategies for generating ideas and use one to come up with something new to write an entry on. *(For example, create a heart map of all of the things you love, write from a photograph, or use freewriting strategy to elicit new ideas.)*
- Write from a personal list or from something off your decorated notebook.
- Read like a writer and add sticky notes to a mentor text, marking examples of author's craft (form, structure, descriptive details, figurative language, etc.), then try the technique in your own writing.
- Engage in collaborative discussions about the writing work. *(For example, try the "glows" and "grows" conversation with a partner or small group, or have peers respond with appropriate questions about your writing.)*