**Guiding Questions: What can you learn about yourself as a writer by keeping a writer’s notebook? How can keeping a writer’s notebook translate into your classroom practice?**

**Transfer: Writers observe, collect, and experiment.**

**Keeping a Writer’s Notebook**

“Keeping a notebook is the single best way I know to survive as a writer. It encourages you to pay attention to your world, inside and out. It serves as a container to keep together all the seeds you gather until you’re ready to plant them. It gives you a quiet place to catch your breath and begin to write.

-Ralph Fletcher, *Breathing In, Breathing Out*

**Writer’s Get Ideas From…**

-**odd facts**

-**nagging questions or issues big or small**

-**newspaper headlines**

-**the heart** (make a heart map of all of the things that you really care enough to write about)

-**words** (collect words that are interesting…what ideas do you get from these words?)

-**funny/sad/ interesting things your students say**

-**making lists** (things to do, words that start with “s”, favorite TV shows)

-**quotes, sayings, idioms**

-**taking walks and observing surroundings** (take the same walk every day for a week-what do you see? What ideas do you have?)

-**normal everyday objects** (the bowl you use for your cereal suddenly becomes a portal to another universe or just describing a plain object in detail)

-**writing down conversations** (spying on others!)

-**collecting slang**

**-collecting colorful language** (ex. Brain flashback)

-**memories of the past**

**-interviews**

**-songs**

**-smells**

**-collecting beautiful phrases/passages from other writers**

**-pictures**

**-rereading what you have written**

**-what if**

**-fears**

-**maps**

**-sketching**