He Drifted off into sleep and Janie looked down on him and felt a self-crushing love. So her soul crawled out from its hiding place."
-ZORA NEALE HURSTON (p.128)

"I can still see the hole like it was yesterday, and it was. Life is a perpetual yesterday for us“
The Lovely Bones by: Alice Sebold
What is sentence stalking?

- As writers, we should surround ourselves with good writing, and therefore good sentences.

- Good sentences are filled with **lively words**, **eloquent syntax** (sentence formation), and **lucid meaning**.

- Stalking good sentences is paying attention to other writers and what they do well – their craft.
Lively Words...

- Lively words seem to jump out of the page at you....
  - Lively words are descriptive
  - They appeal to the senses
  - Some are active verbs
  - Others are specific adjectives, nouns, etc
Some helpful links

- Action Verbs
- Descriptive Words (sensory details)
Eloquent syntax

- Syntax are the rules surrounding sentence formation/construction

- Well-structured sentences, and a variety of them, make for good writing

  - Types of sentence structures:
    - Simple (I went shopping.)
    - Compound (I went shopping and I bought a new outfit.)
    - Complex (When I went shopping, I bought a new outfit.)
    - Compound-Complex (When I went shopping, I bought a new outfit, because I have a date tonight.)
Lucid meaning

- Sentences with *lucid meaning* are those that are clear and precise, that reveal new information to a reader.

- These types of sentences have a clear message, and are original and crisp.
What is sentence stalking?

- We stalk good sentences just to appreciate good writing.
- If we realize what is good about the writing of others, then we can begin to use some of those ideas to make our writing better.
- When sentence stalking, look for:
  - Interesting, fresh words
  - Complex sentence structure
  - Striking images
Sentence Stalking Examples

I slipped through the sleeping house as silently as a needle through lace.
Sentence Stalking Examples

Sometimes when I'm digging for the right word, I long for a terrier-like acuity, a canine's sensory gifts applied to language.
Baby Kochamma was holding on to the back of the front seat with her arms. When the car moved, her armfat swung like heavy washing in the wind. Now it hung down like a fleshy curtain, blocking Estha from Rahel.
Tree islands hump up over the grass, clump up into hummocky hammocks covered with vines; live oak, myrsine, pigeon plum -- making green clouds of trees crowding the horizon. Farther south by the mangroves on stiltlike roots the water goes brackish, then brine.
A lace curtain of snow blew across the porch.
Some sentence stalking Websites

- Notable Sentences Blog
- Sentence Stalking Blog
We stalk good sentences...

- Spend some time reading, and find at least 3 good sentences in other writers’ work. You can read whatever type of material you like – novel, magazine, webpage, etc.

- Record these sentences in your writer’s notebook. Make sure to credit the source – tell where you found it – title, author, and page number.

- Take one of your favourite sentences, and display it in some creative way. This will be placed on our class bulletin board.

- In your writer’s notebook, explain why you like this sentence – what makes it sentence stalking worthy?

The next slide displays a sample sentence stalking bulletin board. Make your sentence look unique to you. Be creative!
We stalk good sentences.
Sentence Stalking Activity

Expectations

- The sentence that you choose to put up on the bulletin board must include the following:
  - The sentence, in quotation marks ("hi there")
  - The source information (title, author, page number)
  - Be creatively represented
  - Include your name