Quick Explanation:

- Verbs provide the ACTION that moves our writing.
- Even action verbs can be weak or strong.
- Without the precise strong verb, our writing can be boring or send the wrong message.
- Strong Verbs are action verbs that are specific and easily visualized by the reader.

Examples:

Think About It! Which verbs send the clearest message?

- ate or devoured
- whispered or hissed
- stole or kidnapped
- pushed or rammed
- hurt or pummeled
- move fast or streaked

Sometimes even when we thought we have used a vivid verb, it is NOT the most precise word for the situation.

Which sentence is more interesting?

The Dolphins’ running back **moved fast.**

or

The Dolphins’ running back **streaked** past his opponents and **sprinted** toward the goal.

Guided Practice:

Listen to this excerpt from Because of *Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo p.8-9

*And he (Winn Dixie) looked like he was having a real good time. His tongue was hanging out and he was wagging his tail. He skidded to a stop and smiled right at me. . . .*

*The manager screamed, “Somebody grab that dog!”*

*The dog went running over to the manager, wagging his tail and smiling. He stood up on his hind legs. You could tell all he wanted to do was get face to face with the manager and thank him for good time he was having in the produce department, but somehow he ended up knocking the manager over. And the manager must have been having a bad day, because lying there on the floor, right in front of everybody, he started to cry. The dog leaned over him, real concerned, and licked his face.*

Allow pairs to underline the strong verbs and determine the tone and mood of the piece. (chaotic - bedlam) Differentiate between the actions of Winn Dixie, the dog, and the manager. Have them complete the chart.

Explain to students that based on the setting and intended action in the writing; the verbs have to be chosen accordingly.
Independent Practice: Select appropriate strong verbs for the situation.
Every activity has its own set of movements and behaviors. Strong verbs show the reader those movements and behaviors. Follow the activity below

Think about it!
Every activity has its own set of movements and behaviors. Strong verbs show the reader those movements and behaviors.

- List at least 10 strong verbs for each of the activities below. Use verbs that are specific, vivid and alive. For example, don’t write the verb look. It is too vague. Use peek, glance, stare, gaze, gape, observe, or some other verb that portrays the exact behavior.

- Example
  Bake cookies: dump, pour, mix, stir, roll, flatten, shape, grease, bake, watch, cool, remove, gobble

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clean your room</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play a game</td>
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</table>
  (e.g., kickball, basketball, video game)

Now choose one activity and describe it using the strong verbs you have chosen.

Application:
Refer students to their entries in their Writer’s Notebooks.
- Have them select an activity or behavior that needs precise strong verbs.
- First have them create a “Verb Bank” appropriate for that situation.
- Then have them revise that section using those precise strong verbs.
Think about it!

Every activity has its own set of movements and behaviors. Strong verbs show the reader those movements and behaviors.

❖ List at least 10 strong verbs for each of the activities below. Use verbs that are specific, vivid and alive. For example, don’t write the verb look. It is too vague. Use peek, glance, stare, glare, gape, observe, or some other verb that portrays the exact behavior.

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Now chose one activity and describe it using the strong verbs you have chosen.
Strong Verbs

Where the Real Action Is!
Verbs are all around us!

- Even on the highways

They tell what to do!
When we are talking to someone or writing, we are very careful to say just the right word so that whoever is listening or reading will understand exactly what happened.
Verbs provide the **ACTION** that moves our writing.

- Even action verbs can be weak or strong.
- Without the precise strong verb, our writing can be boring or send the wrong message.
- Strong Verbs are action verbs that are specific and easily visualized by the reader.
Think About It!
Which verbs send the clearest message?

ate or devoured
stole or kidnapped
hurt or pummeled
whispered or hissed
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move fast or streaked

Sometimes even when we thought we have used a vivid verb, it is NOT the most precise word for the situation.
Which sentence is more interesting?

The Dolphins’ running back moved fast.

or

The Dolphins’ running back streaked past his opponents and sprinted toward the goal.
Guided Practice:

Listen to this excerpt from *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo  p.8-9

And he (Winn Dixie) looked like he was having a real good time. His tongue was hanging out and he was wagging his tail. He skidded to a stop and smiled right at me. . . .

The manager screamed, “Somebody grab that dog?”

The dog went running over to the manager, wagging his tail and smiling. He stood up on his hind legs. You could tell all he wanted to do was get face to face with the manager and thank him for good time he was having in the produce department, but somehow he ended up knocking the manager over. And the manager must have been having a bad day, because lying there on the floor, right in front of everybody, he started to cry. The dog leaned over him, real concerned, and licked his face.
Work with a Partner

- **Underline** the strong verbs.
- **Determine** the tone and mood of the excerpt.
- **Find** the differences between the actions of Winn Dixie, the dog, and the manager.
- **Complete** the chart.

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Excerpt from *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo

And he (Winn Dixie) looked like he was having a real good time. His tongue was hanging out and he was wagging his tail. The dog stopped in a step and smiled right at me.

The manager screamed, "Somebody grab that dog!"

The dog was running over to the manager, wagging his tail and smiling. He stood up on his hind legs. "You would think all he wanted to do was get past us to chase the manager and thank him for the good time he was having in the produce department. But somehow he ended up knocking the manager over. And the manager must have been having a bad day, because lying there on the floor, right in front of everybody, he started to cry. "The dog harmed no one, real concerned, and licked his face.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the mood of the excerpt?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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Based on the setting and intended action in the writing; the verbs have to be chosen accordingly.

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The dog went running over to the manager, wagging his tail and smiling. He stood up on his hind legs. You could tell all he wanted to do was get face to face with the manager and thank him for good time he was having in the produce department, but somehow he ended up knocking the manager over. And the manager must have been having a bad day, because lying there on the floor, right in front of everybody, he started to cry. The dog leaned over him, real concerned, and licked his face.

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Independent Practice:
Select appropriate strong verbs for the situation.

- Every activity has its own set of movements and behaviors. Strong verbs show the reader those movements and behaviors.
- Example
  Bake cookies: dump, pour, mix, stir, roll, flatten, shape, grease, bake, watch, cool, remove, gobble

Hot Fudge Monday
List at least **10 strong verbs** for each of the activities below. Use verbs that are specific, vivid and alive. For example, don’t write the verb “look”. It is too vague. Use peek, glance, stare, glare, gape, observe, or some other verb that portrays the exact behavior.

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Application!

1. Now chose one activity and describe it using the strong verbs you have chosen.

2. Got to your entries in your Writer's Notebooks. Select an activity or behavior that needs precise strong verbs.
   – First create a “Verb Bank” appropriate for that situation.
   – Revise that section using those precise strong verbs.
And he (Winn Dixie) looked like he was having a real good time. His tongue was hanging out and he was wagging his tail. He skidded to a stop and smiled right at me. . . .

The manager screamed, “Somebody grab that dog?”

The dog went running over to the manager, wagging his tail and smiling. He stood up on his hind legs. You could tell all he wanted to do was get face to face with the manager and thank him for good time he was having in the produce department, but somehow he ended up knocking the manager over. And the manager must have been having a bad day, because lying there on the floor, right in front of everybody, he started to cry. The dog leaned over him, real concerned, and licked his face.

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