

Spotlight Moments

A “spotlight moment” is a short, intentional time in class where you pause the general activity to highlight & celebrate a student’s work or effort in front of everyone.

It doesn’t have to be a finished piece, it can be:

- A clever prompt a student wrote that generated a surprising result
- A creative layout choice in their digital book
- A strong piece of Flow Writing
- Or even a brave attempt where they improved after mistakes

A powerful aspect of spotlight moments is that they provide excellent modelling for students. When the teacher highlights & celebrates a piece of work, they’re also showing how to recognise effort, creativity & growth in others.

Kids see this in action & can carry the same technique into their own peer interactions, noticing the “good stuff” in each other’s work, giving specific feedback & valuing what matters.

In this way, spotlight moments double as both encouragement & social learning.

Why use spotlight moments?

- Encouragement – students feel proud & motivated when their work is noticed
- Peer learning – others see real examples from classmates, which often teaches more than abstract instruction
- Positive classroom culture – keeps the focus on growth, creativity & effort rather than only “perfect” outcomes

Spotlight Moment Prompts

1. Highlighting Effort & Growth

- What’s something new you tried here?
- How did your prompt change from your first attempt to this one?
- What was tricky, & how did you improve it?
- What small change made a big difference?

2. Celebrating Creativity

- What do you notice about how this student described their character/image?
- How does their choice of words make the image unique?
- What effect did the art movement have on this prompt?
- What do you like about the way this page/book layout is designed?

3. Encouraging Peer Learning

- What did you learn from the way the prompt was structured?
- If you were writing this prompt, what else might you add?
- How might this technique help you in your own project?
- What’s one idea you’d like to try after seeing this example?

4. Building Reflection & Confidence

- What part of this are you most proud of?
- If you had one more go, what would you try next?
- What’s the biggest thing you’ve learned from doing this?
- How does it feel to see your idea come alive as an image?

TIP

Keep spotlight moments brief (2–3 minutes), frame them positively & always end with class applause or encouragement. Frame them as “Here’s something great from....” rather than as a critique.