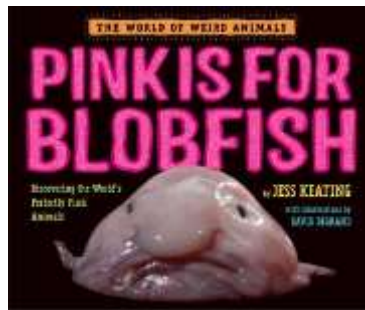


One Amazing Thing



Do your students need help generating ideas for nonfiction writing projects? Here's a fabulous technique developed by award-winning author [Jess Keating](#).



Jess wrote one of my favorite books of all time—*Pink Is for Blobfish: Discovering the World's Perfectly Pink Animals*. If you don't already own this book, be sure to add it to your wish list.

Each morning, students draw an empty box in their writer's notebook, write the words "One Amazing Thing" above it, and then close their notebook. Throughout the day, they should be on the lookout for one thing that catches their attention or sparks their curiosity. It could be an object, an action, a snippet of conversation—anything at all.

The act of making space for an amazing thing will raise your students' awareness of the world around them. All day long, their subconscious brain will be looking for a way to fill that little box.

After doing this activity for a few weeks, students may see some trends among the things they notice. Identifying these commonalities can help students discover what matters to them, which can assist them in choosing topics they're excited to explore and write about.

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