StorySheet: Editing and revising

Congratulations on completing the first draft of your story! Now let's make it even better.. We're going to go back over the story and make changes to improve it. Revising your work is much easier to do with a friend. Professional authors work with an editor to help them correct mistakes. Editors can also point out where the story becomes confusing (or where it shines! Find a friend to be your editor, and let's go!

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Perspective

It's important to make sure the same person is telling your story from start to finish.

Is your story told in third person, from the perspective of a narrator? Or is your story told in first person, by the character of your story?

Example: Third Person
He went into the cave where the bears lived and found Big Bear. He grabbed his snowboard and quickly ran off.
The Hamburger's Adventure by Liam

Example: First Person
I watch as the note makes its way around the class. Everyone who reads it laughs. My hands ball up into fists.
Are We Any Better? by Lily

HINT

Reading your story out loud is a great way to check your work. Often spelling and grammar problems will 'sound wrong' to you, and jump off the page.

Perspective
❏ Do I use first person or third person perspective?
❏ Do I use the same perspective all the way through the story?

Tense
❏ Do I use past tense or present tense?
❏ Do I use the same tense all the way through the story?

Tense

Does your story take place now, or in the past? Read through your story to make sure it's told in the same tense all the way through.. Are you using words such as *is/are* to talk about the present? Or are you using *was/were* to talk about the past?

Example: Past Tense
A dragon burned through the balcony door into the room. He quickly grabbed the King and Queen and flew back out the window with them!
Ash and Isabelle's Great Adventure by Lola

Example: Present Tense
Lou knows unicorns are real, even if her parents don't believe. She is going to go and find one. She goes into a forest. It is sunny and birds are singing.
Lou Finds a Unicorn by Levi
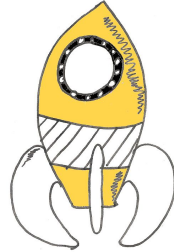
Date: Name:

When astronauts get ready to lift off, they use a checklist to make sure that nothing important has been forgotten. Now that your story is nearly ready to launch, let's go through a pre-flight checklist of our own. Use these lists and suggestions to make sure your story has the correct spelling, punctuation and grammar. It might seem like hard work, but it's worth it: the right words will make your story soar!

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Revising your writing is when you reread your work to make the story better. You might make changes, additions or take out words or sentences that you don't need.

HINT
When you read the story out loud, the commas should be a short pause, while the periods are a longer one.

Spelling & Punctuation Checklist

- ❏ I started each sentence with a capital letter.
- ❏ I ended each sentence with a period, exclamation mark, or question mark.
- ❏ I used a capital letter for names of people, places and dates
- ❏ I used a comma to list things, or create a pause in longer sentences
- ❏ I used proper quotation marks when a character is speaking
- ❏ I used paragraphs to organize my writing
- ❏ Check for correct spelling. Not sure? Circle the word and check a dictionary or ask a friend.

Revision Checklist
- ❏ My first sentence is exciting and will hook my readers.
- ❏ I read my story out loud to make sure it makes sense.
- ❏ I used interesting descriptive and action words to add detail.
- ❏ I included golden descriptions and exciting language
- ❏ I removed words or sentences that don't make sense.
- ❏ I have a satisfying ending that will not leave my readers with questions.

Adding Paragraph Breaks

A paragraph is a group of sentences about one topic. We break up the ideas in our stories with new paragraphs. But when should you start a new paragraph?

Change paragraphs when:
- A new character comes along
- The setting changes
- A new character is speaking
- When time jumps forward
- A new idea or event is introduced

Date:　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Name: