



Rainbows and Unicorns, Editing and Revision, Oh My!

1. **Supplies** Post-its, copies of the writing piece for Writer **and** Listener, Skittles (you'll see why soon).
2. **Start with fabulous** Writer reads piece **aloud**. Writer and Listener pick a golden line. Share.
3. **Visit the magical Land of Revision**
 - a. Writer reads piece aloud **again**.
 - b. Notice parts where Writer stumbles over words, or pauses, or has to reread. Often, this is a signal screaming, "Revise me here!" Listener helps ID these places in the piece, and makes cute Post-it notes for future reference.
 - c. Listener asks questions, if applicable: Can you tell me more about this part? (*Listener is really asking for more details.*) What did you mean here? (*Listener is really saying he/she is confused.*) Take notes!
 - d. Listener asks, "What revision are you going to do?"
 - e. Writer answers with one or more of the following: **I am going to add this.../ I am going to take this part out.../ I am going to move this.../ I am going to change this.../ Dang, I'm starting over.**
 - f. Do the revisions. This is a small sentence, BUT it's a big and hard task. Gauge energy and resistance of the Writer. Push for at least ONE significant revision, but don't go for Pulitzer Prize-winning perfection if an attitude storm is brewing. The Writer's engagement with this process so he/she repeats it in the future is MORE important than the piece of writing. Always keep that in mind. Always.
 - g. If you have time, step away from the writing and let the piece rest.
4. **Next stop, The Land of Editing** Find one grammar, punctuation, or spelling move the Writer made that was awesome. Encouragement ensues.
5. **Catch Brain Freeze Mistakes** Remind the Writer that composing takes a lot of brain power. We make silly mistakes when our brains are working overtime. These are the ones that make you think, "I can't believe I did that. I know how to spell dog. I know sentences start with capital letters!" Catch all those Brain Freeze Mistakes. Between Writer and Listener, who can find the most?
6. **Catch Signs of Intelligent Life Mistakes** These are the most impressive kind of mistakes because it means the Writer is trying something new and advanced, oh my! This is when Writer and Listener have to look at reference books, or Google "dangling participles" or "difference between lie and lay." Listener, if you know how to fix these, do it for free, but share your knowledge.
7. **Taste the Rainbow Proofreading** Print copies of the revised and edited piece for the Writer and the Listener. Whenever, a person finds a typo, fix it and eat a Skittle. Taste the rainbow! The person who finds the most mistakes turns into a proofreading unicorn for 24 hours. See, isn't revising and editing fun!

