

Picture Book Revision Checklist **Revising “Being John Malkovich” Style**

Character

- Did I create a unique character?
 - Is my character’s voice strong?
 - Is my character’s voice consistent?
 - Did I sprinkle expressions, feelings, and reactions into the story that are unique to this character?

Story

- Is this story as unique as possible?
 - Is my setting unique?
 - Did I create a unique spin on an evergreen topic?

Layers

- Did I add multiple layers to my manuscript? For example, in ROSIE THE DRAGON AND CHARLIE MAKE WAVES, I layered friendship, learning a new skill, problem-solving, courage, swimming, and dragon-antics into the story.

Spreads, Visuals, and Structure

- Did I introduce the character, setting, motivation, and conflict in the first two spreads?
- Did I create salient visual images on each spread?
- Does each two-page spread offer a new scene?

Arcs

- Is my narrative arc woven as tightly as possible?

- Did I create an emotional arc that is resonant?

Foundation, Framework, and Planting Seeds

- Did I plant seeds at the beginning of the book for items/themes/characters that appear later in the book?
- Does my conflict remain the same throughout the story?
- Are my foundation and framework strong?

Language and Literary Devices

- Did I use the juiciest, yummiest, most deliciously descriptive words possible?
- Did I rely on my “favorite” words or did I think with my thesaurus?
- Did I choose words that support the voice I want to create?
- Did I use literary devices-- alliteration, consonance, onomatopoeia, puns, assonance?

Pacing and Tension

- Does the tension increase throughout the story?
- Is the pacing fluid?
- Does the pacing slow down when it needs to and speed up when it needs to?

Audience

- Is the content accessible to the particular age of the child to whom this story is aimed?