

Writing the Children's Picture Book

with author Denise Vega
Week 4

Revision Techniques & Tips

- Select one thing you want to focus on, check it in your manuscript and revise as necessary OR go after multiple aspects in a single pass (each approach takes effort and practice so be kind to yourself)
 - Theme and/or story point
 - Character
 - Conflict (If your story contains a conflict.)
 - Language/word choices/rhythm
 - Structure
 - Text that is better served in the illustrations
- Get feedback, revise again. And again. And again!

Revising Approaches

- Cut all unnecessary words – leave room for the illustrations
- Make sure your character is fun, quirky, memorable in some way if more character-driven.
- Make your dialogue work for you
- Know your theme/story point and make sure it comes through
- In a narrative story, check your plot for the introduction of the story problem, two to three tries and fails, and a satisfying resolution.
- In a non-narrative story, check to see if your story lends itself to an arc or progression and if so, make sure it's there.
- Use fun and engaging language where appropriate for tone and style

Revision Tips

- Go after a single craft element or multiple elements in a single pass (each approach takes effort and practice so see what works best for you and give it time)
- Type the text of published picture books - check the text against the published book – note character, dialogue, theme, language devices, page turns, etc.
- See Linda Ashman's submitted and revised text for SAMANTHA ON A ROLL (see under Extras for Writers):
<http://lindaashman.com/about-the-books/samantha-on-a-roll/>

Revision Tools & Resources

- Storyboards & Book dummies
- Feedback
- Workshop classes
- Critique groups
- Manuscript critiques

Contact Me

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