

Mini-Lesson: Revising by Removing (4th Grade)

Intention (Skill): Revising

Teaching Point (Strategy): Writers revise by cutting away details that don't apply to the main idea of their story.

Connection: So far, you've chosen a story that has meaning for you, all of you have written several scenes to make your story longer. As we were talking yesterday, I noticed that several of you really had more than you needed in your story.

Today, I want to teach you that writers revise by cutting away details that don't apply to the main idea of their story.

Teach: Let me show you what I mean. In my story, the main idea is that I'm creating memories with Lily-Kate. I have this scene about playing on the slide. It's well-written, and I like it, but it's not the memory that I really want to hold on to. So this entire scene is not going to make it into my final piece. I'm going to cut it away because it doesn't apply to the main idea of my story. I may save it in my writer's notebook for another piece.

Active Engagement: Now it's your turn to try it. Re-read your draft and decide if there are any details or maybe a whole scene that you can cut away because they don't apply to your main idea. If you're not sure, ask your partner for help.

Stop students and share one example.

Link: Today, when you go off to write, I hope that you'll re-read your story again and revise by cutting away details that don't apply to the main idea.

Share: While conferring, look for students trying out the strategy. Make them famous during share time!

