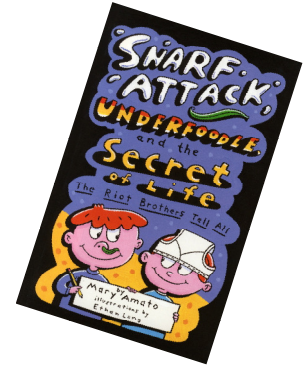


Example of Editing and Revising:

From Snarf Attack, Underfoodle, and The Secret of Life

by Mary Amato



This is an actual page from my manuscript that has been edited by my editor, Regina Griffin. Her comments are circled; the other handwriting is mine. This is the end of a chapter in which the boys (Orville and Wilbur) have been trying to convince their mom to let them keep money that they earned by giving annoying lessons during school. In the previous page, the mom rolls her eyes twice. As you can see here, Regina suggested that my repetition (Mom's eyes rolled again) is boring (although Regina said this in a nice way). Instead of putting pressure on myself to come up with something funny on the first try, I brainstorm a bunch of possibilities (my ideas are handwritten below) and then I choose the one I like best. (You can see the finished work on page 32 in the hardcover edition.)

For the third time, mom's eyes took a spin.

Amato/15

Ha!

This repetition doesn't seem quite as funny as it should be - can you change?

"No thanks," said Orville. Perhaps he thought Mom was offering him coffee.

Mom's eyes rolled again. (She really should go to an eye doctor about that.)

"Boys, put all the money you earned in the can. You're returning it."

We had to empty our brilliant, rich, jingly, fat pockets.

I've got to tell you that the sound of your coins dropping into somebody else's coffee can is the saddest thing in the whole world. Much sadder than a rainy old wilting daffodil.

or a green bean in a puddle of butter?

Mom's eyes went roly poly.

Mom's eyes took another roly poly trip.

Mom's eyes took another trip.

Mom's eyes were in danger of rolling out the door.

* Mom's eyes rolled so much they almost fell out of. The eyes in mom's head rolled round round her face. Roly Poly went mom's eyes.

Mom's eyes went merrily rolling along.

Mom's eyes went for another ride.

Mom's eyes rolled around the old block.

* For the third time, mom's eyes took a spin.

* R- I like both of these. Do you have a preference?