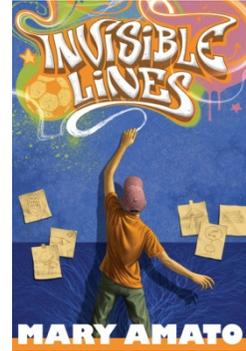


Example of Revising from *Invisible Lines* by Mary Amato

In this scene, Trevor's science teacher has taken his class outside for a lesson. Trevor is lying in the grass, looking up at the sky. Here is a short paragraph from my first draft:

The sky is blue and cloudless. I feel like I'm not in school or maybe like I'm back in Headstart when we got to go outside and play in the field.



I wasn't happy with it because it doesn't give the reader much of a feel for Trevor's character, but I couldn't think of how to revise it. So, I went outside and I pretended to be Trevor. He loves to do graffiti, so when I was lying there, I immediately imagined wanting to write my name in the sky. This gave me a chill because the writing of names is a recurring theme in the book. As soon as I thought of that, I started making other important connections and ended up rewriting and expanding the entire scene. Here's the revision of the sentences from the first draft.

...Above me the sky is like a canvas that has been painted the most perfect shade of blue, and I want to reach up and write my name in the sky. *Trevor Musgrove*. I'd like to have a skywriting business and write people's names in the sky. When the wind blows, each letter will billow and stretch, like the name is alive. --From page 79 (hardcover edition)

Putting yourself in your character's shoes and actually pretending to be your character is a great way to get insight into how your character thinks, which will give your writing more power.