

# Revision Example:

## A Star on TV, Lucy McGee

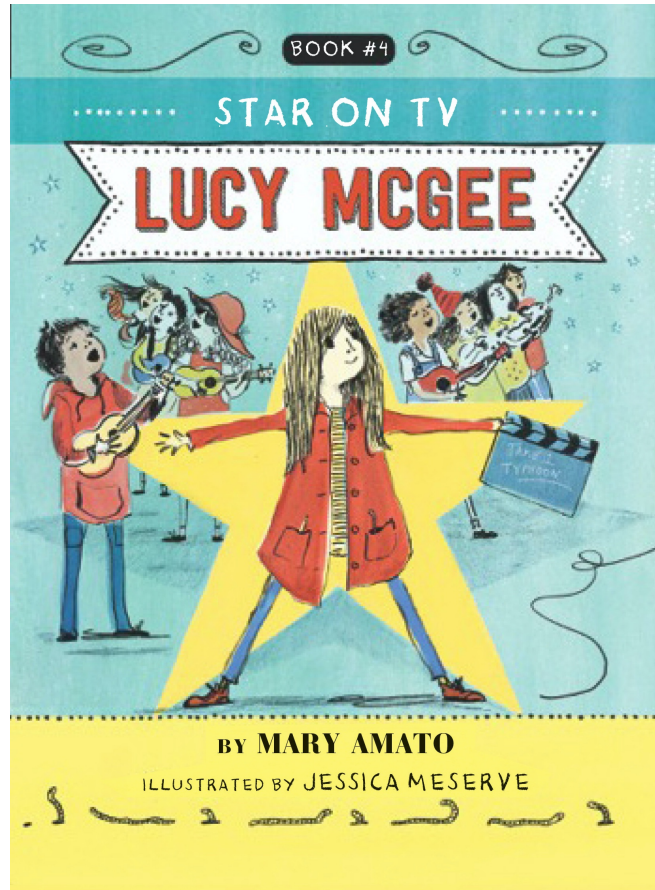
Raising the Stakes/Chapter End

Take a look at my original draft of this scene below. After I read it, I realized it needed work. This was the last scene in an important chapter and it was falling flat. To revise it, I asked myself an important question: What is really at stake? Lucy wants to sing on TV. The scene isn't about the mud and the mopping. It's about Lucy not getting what she wants. I needed to emphasize what Lucy was losing. Take a look at my

revision and see what I changed (in yellow highlight). Also, Lucy loves to rhyme, so I remembered that when I wrote my very last line.

### DRAFT

When I heard my dad's footsteps on the stairs, I ran to my room and climbed into my bed and pulled the covers over my head.



“Lucy, you need to clean up downstairs and then you need to write a letter of apology for every family. When those parents said yes to the party, they thought adults would be in charge. But I was asleep and your mom was gone.”

“But—”

“No buts,” my dad said.

“Can I sing with the Club on—”

“Lucy, you need to come home every day after school this week. No special activities! And I don’t want to hear a peep out of you.”

“But we didn’t even make a mess—”

“Lucy! You and your friends tracked dirt and mud in. You need to mop the kitchen and vacuum the living room.” He walked out of the room.

## REVISION

When I heard my dad’s footsteps on the stairs, I ran to my room and climbed into my bed and pulled the covers over my head.

“Lucy, you need to clean up downstairs and then you need to write a letter of apology for every family. When those parents said yes to the party, they thought adults would be in charge. But I was asleep and your mom was gone.”

“I’m sorry, but—”

“No buts,” my dad said.

“I didn’t think it would rain, Dad! We were outside most of the time. We didn’t even make a mess—”

“Lucy! You and your friends tracked dirt and mud in. You need to mop the kitchen and vacuum the living room.”

“If I do all that, can I sing with the Club on—”

“Lucy, you need to come home every day after school this week. No special activities! And I don’t want to hear a peep out of you.” He walked out of the room.

His words were ringing in my ears. No special activities? I couldn’t believe it. Now everybody would be on TV, except me. Bad, Lucy McGee.

