**Revising and Editing—Stories**

Ask yourself the following questions when you review and revise your first draft.

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|  | Do the characters’ words and actions seem natural? (We wouldn’t expect the neighborhood bully to talk like a college professor.) |
|  | Is there a real or believable conflict that keeps the story going? |
|  | Do all of the characters play an important role in the story? |
|  | Are all of the conversations, explanations, and events important? (Make sure that your story moves along at a steady clip. You don’t have to tell the reader everything.) |
|  | Is the main character put to the test at the climax in the story? (The main character should undergo some change because of this event.) |
|  | Does the story make sense and contain enough detail and background information? (Fill in any holes or gaps in the story line.) |
|  | Does the narrator’s voice engage the reader? |
|  | Do the sentences read smoothly? |
|  | Do all of the words “work” within the context of the story? |
|  | Are punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and grammar correct? |

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