Playwriting Challenge #8
Revising

“Words, in my not so humble opinion, are our most inexhaustible source of magic...”
- Albus Dumbledore, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

Warm ups:

List 5 words that mean NICE:
(These are SYNONYMS)

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  

List 5 words for JUMP:

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  

List 5 words OPPOSITE of NICE:
(These are ANTONYMS)

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  

OPPOSITE of JUMP:

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  

Now try this exercise with words in your script. Can you find any synonyms or antonyms to reduce repetition, or new words that enhance your dialogue?

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Warm ups Continued:

1. Try to rewrite this passage to make it easier to understand:
Ask yourself these questions: Does this make sense? Do you see any
spelling errors, repetition, or mistakes with grammar? How can I say this
more clearly?

Once there is 3 little pigs and they do need to leave from there mom’s house. They was scared
and sad but also ok. The first Little Pig builds his house out of straw and it is nice. The second
Little Pig builds his house out of sticks and it is nice. The third Little Pigs built his house out of
bricks and it is nice. They is all happy. Then a Big Bad Wolf come over and feel hungry, he
decides to eat some piggies. He go to straw house and blows it down and the first Little Pig is
scared and sad and run away. Then he go to stick house and blows it down and the second Little
Pig is scared and sad and run away. Then he go to brick house and blows but the house no blow
down and the pigs is happy and the wolf is mad and go away. The End.

2. Look at the new passage you wrote. Is there a way to add
more description or build the dramatic tension? Try it:

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Revising your play:
- If you’re working on paper, use a highlighter or a colored pen to make notes
- If you’re working on a computer, use the highlight function in your document to mark things, or write yourself a note in a different color

Step 1: Read through your play.
- While you read, just make marks on things you would like to change. These can be often-repeated words, sentences that need changing (or deleting!), or sections that you want to re-try.

Step 2: Do some quick fixing.
- Visit the places you marked during Step 1 and make your revisions. It’s ok to make big or small changes, or have questions!

Step 3: Read your play out-loud with friends or family.
- Have your pen/highlighter ready! You will find that reading words aloud is different than reading them on a page, make notes of what feels clunky, unnatural, or unclear.
- If you’re comfortable, ask your friends and family for feedback. You can ask them questions based on what you need. **Ex:** Did anything confuse you in the story? This line sounds weird, do you have a suggestion on saying it another way? Etc.

Step 4: Do some re-writes.
- Take what you learned during Steps 1-3 and make the changes that you need! These changes can be big or small, and it’s ok to delete or add new things.

Now you have a second (or third!) draft! Repeat any steps if that is helpful for your process.

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