



## Module Five

### Handout: Line editing

Once you are happy with your story, you can use copy editing, or line editing, to improve the sound and readability of your story. Mem Fox has said she edits for years, sometimes, to achieve the finesse in her picture books!

The simplest editing strategy is to read your work aloud and get others to read it aloud to you.

The other really useful strategy is creating a dummy book, or paginate your manuscript. You will quickly see chunks of text that don't need to be there.

Here are some areas to work on:

- Active sentences
- Improving verbs
- Concise sentences
- Avoiding adverbs
- Improving specificity
- Rhythm and flow
- Using literary techniques
- Punctuation.

We will work on each of these in the following tasks.

