

## **SURPRISES Editing method**

### **Say in head**

Rehearse in head to listen to what immediately stands out, which sentences are you happy with? Unhappy with? Mark anything you think needs to change.

### **Under breath - mumble**

In a muttered voice, begin to FEEL how the piece fits together- are your sentences varied enough? Are your sentence lengths varied enough? Did you include short snappy sentences?

### **Read aloud**

Are there unplanned repetitions? Are your tenses accurate? Does it need anything adding in?

### **Punctuation power**

Look at your use of punctuation, is it accurate? Is it varied enough? Can you show that you can use punctuation to help clarify meaning?

### **Read the openers**

Is there enough variety in your openers? Look at your linking sentences between paragraphs, are they strong enough? Is there flow?

### **Improve worrisome words**

Improve vocabulary by checking the quality of your word choices, particularly verbs, adjectives and adverbs. Can you expand your noun phrases?

### **Say in head or aloud**

Read it through to listen to how it is now sounding? Have you done enough? Has it improved? What more needs to be done? Could you re-order some sentences to improve the overall effect?

### **Emotive and figurative check**

Look at your sentence choices, are there similes, metaphors? What about personification and pathetic fallacy? Have you used powerful verbs and adjectives?

### **Share with a friend**

Together can you improve your work in any other ways? Does it feel finished?