

# Lifesavers

**REVISION PRACTICE AT ITS BEST!  
GRADES FOUR AND FIVE**



**Tammy D. Sutherland ♦♦ Shannon B. Temple**  
**[www.sandtpublications.com](http://www.sandtpublications.com)**

# Introduction

Imagine your students replacing dull words, adding details, checking for spelling, and even more to improve a rough draft. Most students think that revising means copying the rough draft in their best handwriting. The fact is that students do not know how to revise. Over the years, teachers have told students to write a rough draft and a final draft, but we all know that just telling them to revise does not teach them how to do it. They need to know exactly what the word revision means.

In an effort to provide a step-by-step method to revision, we developed an acronym. Each letter in the acronym will remind students of the twelve mistakes and/or traits on which they should focus when transforming their rough drafts into well-written stories or essays. Using the South Carolina state writing rubric, we pooled together the traits, and came up with “Lifesavers”, a memorable acronym to help teachers get the revision job done. By introducing this simple acronym and teaching a method to revision, our students can become confident in making rough drafts much better!

This book will explain the acronym and provide you with lots of handouts for you to use with your students.

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**The highlighted activities are yours free! Scroll down to print!**

## **How Do I Write an Awesome “Grabber”?**

Look at the following ways to “grab” a reader’s attention.

- **Begin with a question.**

Do you know what would make our school better? I do! If we had a longer recess, we would be ready to learn when we are in the classroom.

- **Begin with a riddle.**

What would allow students to have fresh air, teachers to have a break, and behavior to improve? A longer recess would allow these things to happen.

- **Begin with onomatopoeia – words that sound like what they mean.**

Boom! That is the sound of our brains after eight long hours of school. We need a longer free time.

- **Begin with an “imagine statement”.**

Imagine a classroom full of quiet students ready to learn and participate in class. This could happen if we were only allowed to have a longer recess.

# The Case of the Missing Details

**Sherlock Foam:** Okay, guys, let's get this straight. The paper was turned in, but robbed of the details. Is that correct?

**Roger:** Yes, sir. That is correct. It seems that they just disappeared into thin air. All of the juicy details were once there, but now they are all gone.

**Sherlock Foam:** Well let's start by taking a look at what we do have. Lisa, read the paper out loud please.

**Lisa:** Okay. (She reads the letter.) The best birthday party I ever had was when I was nine years old. It was a lot of fun. We played some fun games. We ate really good cake. I got lots of neat presents. I will never forget that party.

**Sherlock Foam:** That's it?

**Lisa:** Yes, sir. That is all there is.

**Rakeem:** It sure is boring. There are no juicy details in that paper! I have lots of questions about what actually happened at that party.

**Roger:** Me too. We've got to get to the bottom of this.

**Sherlock Foam:** We will start with witnesses. Let's go visit some of the people that were at the party and see what they have to say.

**Later that night...**

**Sherlock Foam:** Let's take a look at the evidence we have collected. What details did you all find?

**Lisa:** I talked to a girl named Susie at the party and she told me that the cake looked like a treasure map. There was a miniature treasure box and a path marked out toward it. It was a chocolate cake with cream cheese icing.

**Rakeem:** I talked to Ron, who was also at the party. He said that the party games were unforgettable. They had a real treasure hunt. They were put into teams of three, provided with clues, and the first team to find the treasure was rewarded a cash prize.

**Roger:** I talked to Nate, who was also at the party. Nate told me about the gift that he gave the birthday boy. He said he gave him a water gun that can shoot up to ten feet. It holds a half of a gallon of water and can soak anything or anyone in a matter of seconds.

**Sherlock Foam:** Well, it looks like we have solved the case and found all of the juicy details. Let's put them back in the paper and read it to see the improvement.

**Lisa:** (reads the paper) The best birthday party I ever had was when I was nine years old. It was a lot of fun. We had a real live treasure hunt. After being put into teams of three, we were given clues to find a hidden treasure. The first team to find the treasure received a cash prize! We also ate really good cake. It was chocolate with yummy cream cheese filling, and it looked like a treasure map. There was a path marked out on the cake and even a miniature treasure box. I got lots of neat presents too. One of my favorite presents was a super soaking water gun. It can shoot up to ten feet and it holds a half of a gallon of water! I will never forget that party.

**Sherlock Foam:** Well, it looks like we have solved another case. That paper is much better now that all of its juicy details have been restored.

**Rakeem:** That's for sure. I know all about the party now. The juicy details made me feel like I was at the party too.

**Roger:** I know. I think I will have a party like that for my next birthday.

**Sherlock Foam:** Okay, let's get on to our next investigation.



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