5

Power

Tips

to

Rev Up

Your

Openings

REVISION POWER REVISE TO PUBLISH

Have you ever had trouble...

...transforming a slow story opening?

Have you ever had trouble...

...revamping the beginning of your article from "meh" to OMG?

Have you ever gotten frustrated because...

...your dialogue isn't moving your story ahead?

Have you ever been told...

...you are telling your story, not showing your story?

Do you feel at a loss in trying to...

...sharpen the focus of your story or article?

Are you confused how to...

...add color and detail to your writing?

Are you going in circles when you...

...rework your sentences for greater economy, clarity, and flow?

Do you know how to...

...revise your work to meet a specific publisher's need?

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Opening Sequence Power Tip #1 Think scene.

Hannah was having a hard time adjusting to her new school. It wasn't easy coming into a strange classroom in the middle of the year, especially in a small town where everyone seemed to know everyone else.

Her teacher, Mrs. Reardon, tried to help by assigning a girl named Darcy Cooper to be Hannah's homeroom partner, but Hannah sensed that Darcy didn't like her. Then she found out that Darcy's best friend had lived in Hannah's house before Hannah's family bought it. Darcy's friend had moved to Minneapolis, and Darcy resented Hannah for taking her place.



BORINGI



Hannah sat alone at lunch. Again. She felt like the quiet eye in the middle of the storm that was the cafeteria. No one to eat with. No one to talk to.

After lunch, when Mrs. Reardon asked for everyone to pair up, Darcy Cooper walked up to her. Finally! Someone was going to be her friend! But Darcy looked at Hannah, scowled, and walked to the next desk without saying a word to Hannah.

Hannah heard Darcy say to her partner, "You know where that new girl lives?"

"No way," the other girl said.

"Yep."

They both turned and frowned at Hannah. What was wrong with where she lived?



Power Tip #2
Think surprise.

Colby was having ice cream for breakfast again. Today it was strawberry.

He thought sadly that strawberry used to be his favorite.



Power Tip #2
Think surprise.

"Where are my reading glasses?" shouted the King. "You know I can't read my horoscope without my glasses!"

"I believe you broke them yesterday, Sire," replied his chief astrologer, quaking in his velvet slippers.



Power Tip #3
Think color and detail.

The owl is a nocturnal bird. Owls are birds of prey. Owls live all over the world. Owls have an eye on each side of their heads. Owls eat snakes. Watch out—an owl could carry off your kitty or little dog.



Meet the owl: a nocturnal bird of prey. Owls stay awake all night, when they hunt and eat other animals—mice, voles, shrews, snakes, rabbits, insects, and even small dogs.

They live in holes in trees or among rocks, and they make nests in the ground. Owls have an eye on each side of their heads and they can rotate their heads 360 degrees to see from side to side. An owl can spot a mouse scurrying along in a distant field and swoop down to snatch it up in its claws.

- quotes
- sensory detail
- descriptive detail
- specific facts
- vivid language
- figures of speech
- characterization
- scene-setting



It was so quiet that Thea could hear a fly buzzing against a window in the next room. There were no clocks, of course, but from the shadows, she thought it must be late afternoon.

She plucked at the quilt they'd thrown over her. It was stiff with dust, and smelled of mothballs, as though someone had once cared for it and folded it away—perhaps in the battered wooden chest that was the only other piece of furniture in the room besides the bed on which she lay.

Power Tip #5
Think action.





Marcus raced the length of the court, ducked under the opposing center's arm, took the pass from Alvin, and sank his layup. A whistle shrilled in his ear.

"Foul!" the ref cried.

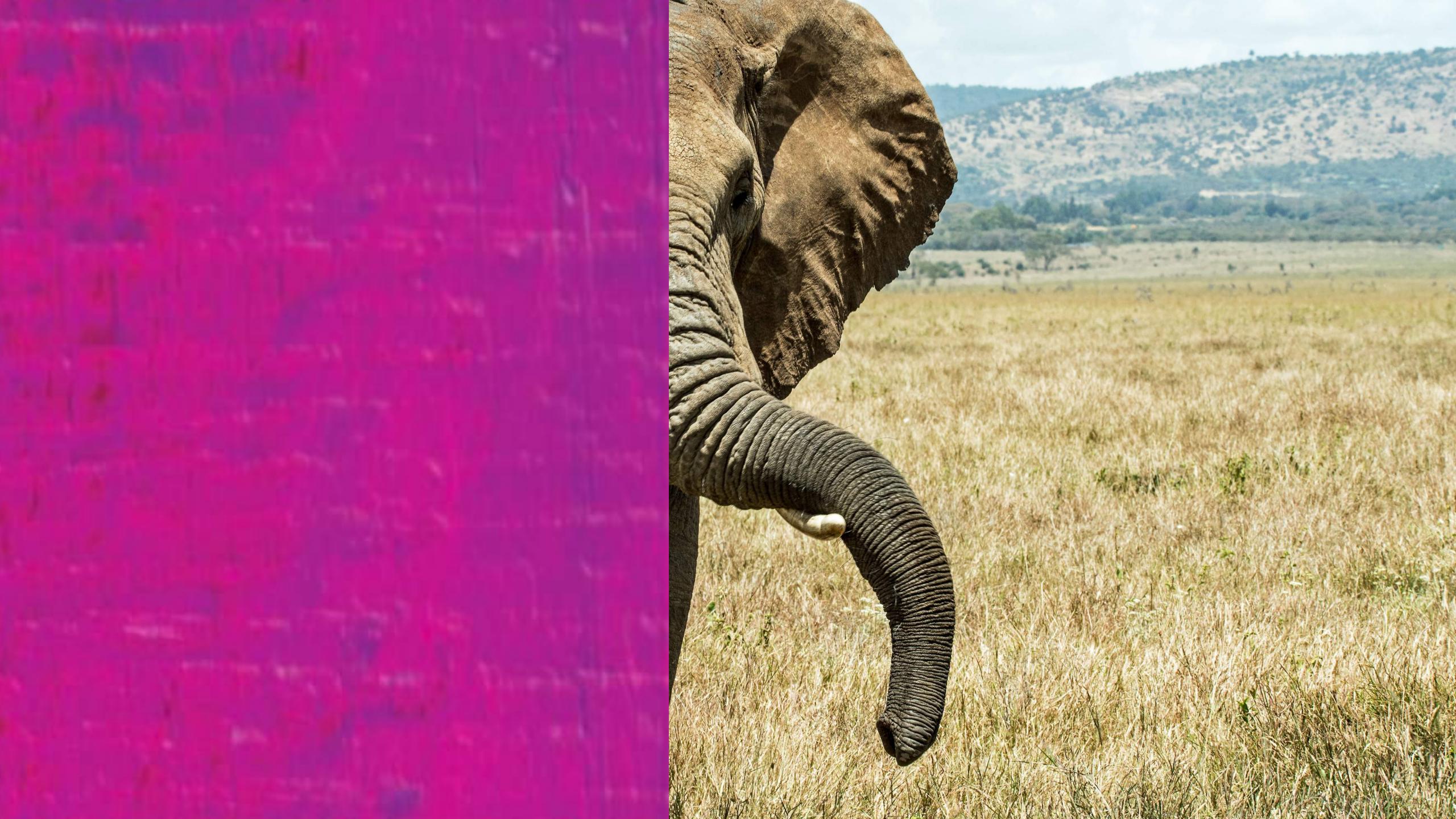
Marcus whirled to face him. "No way!"





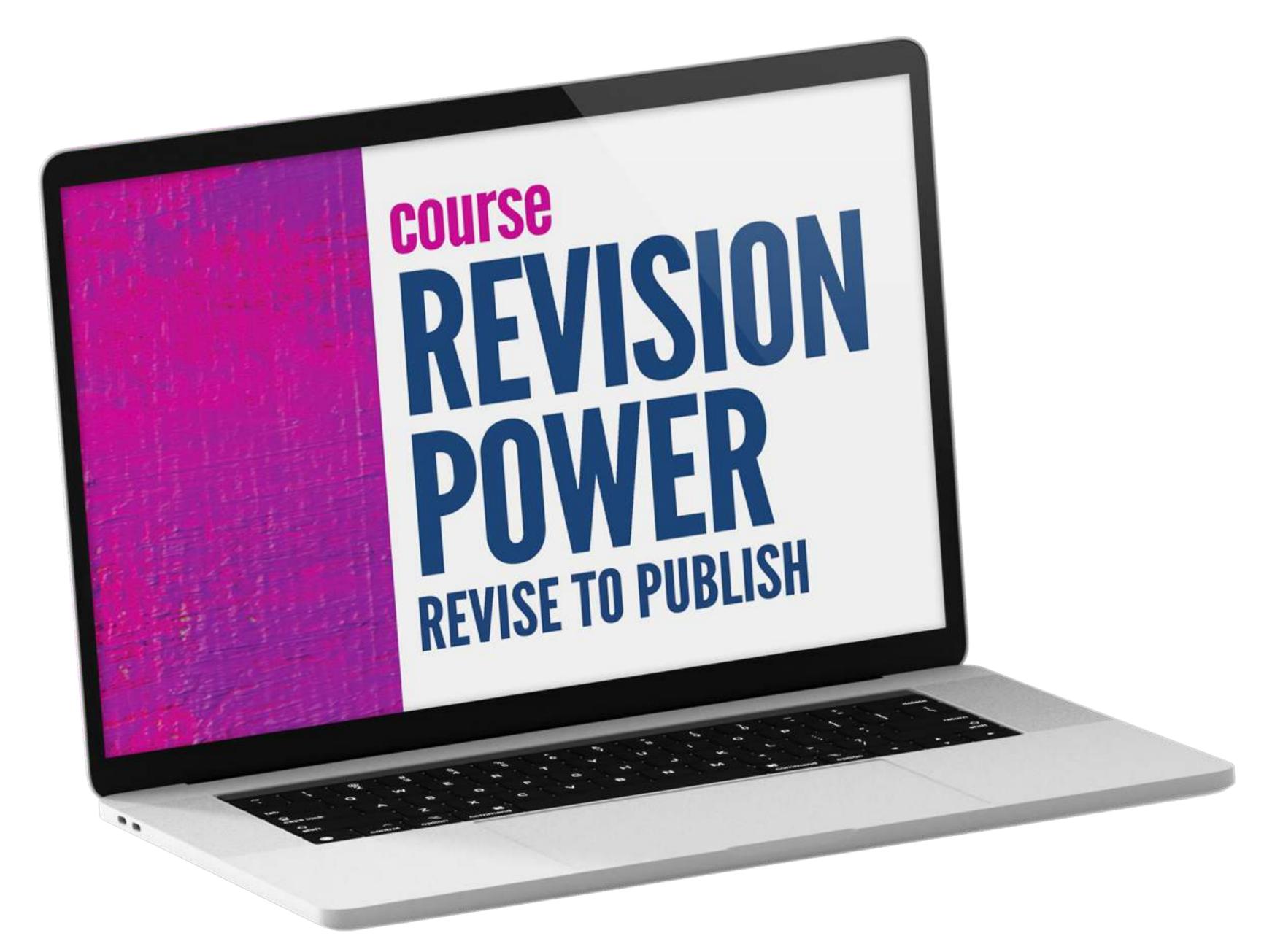




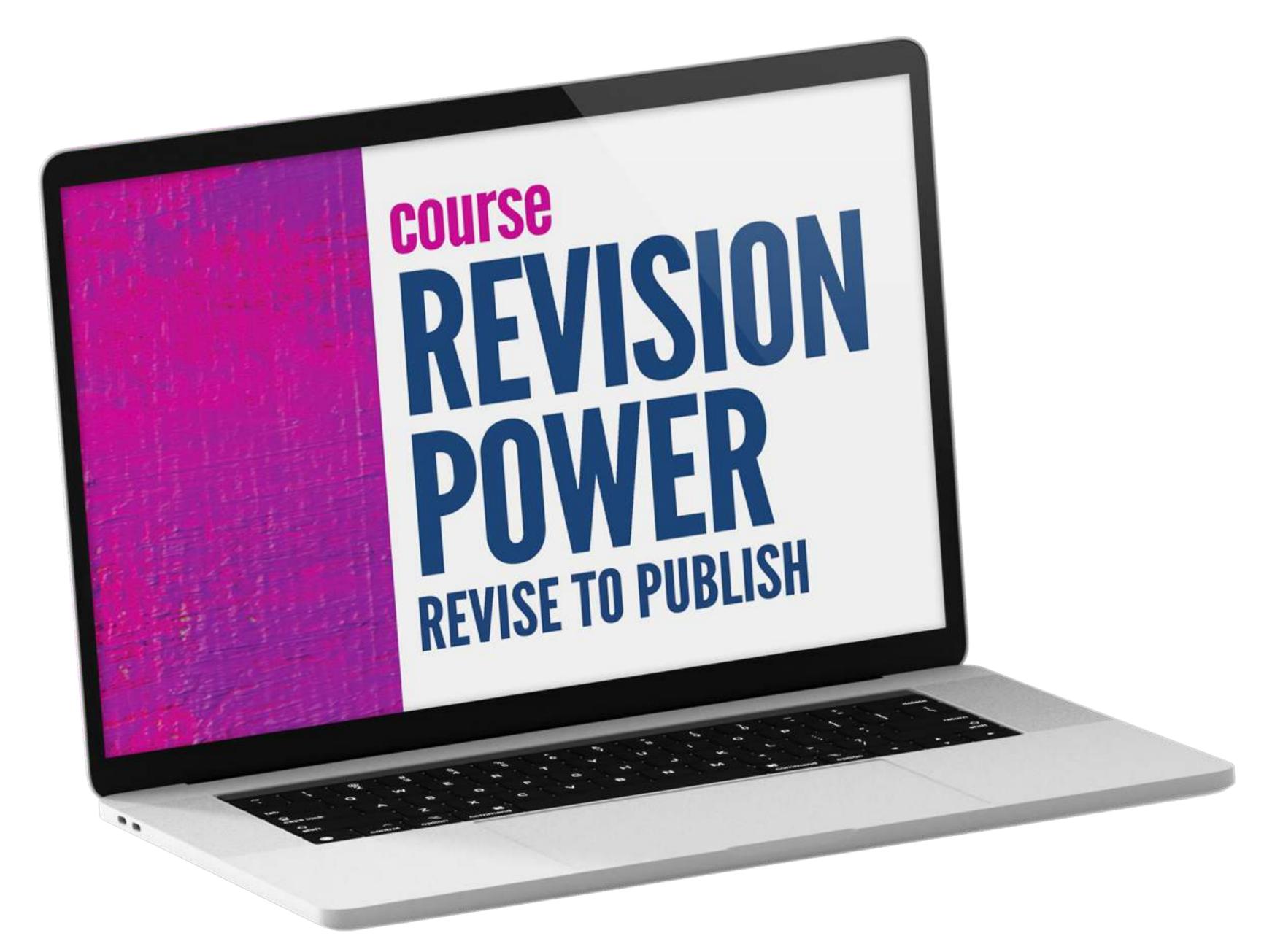




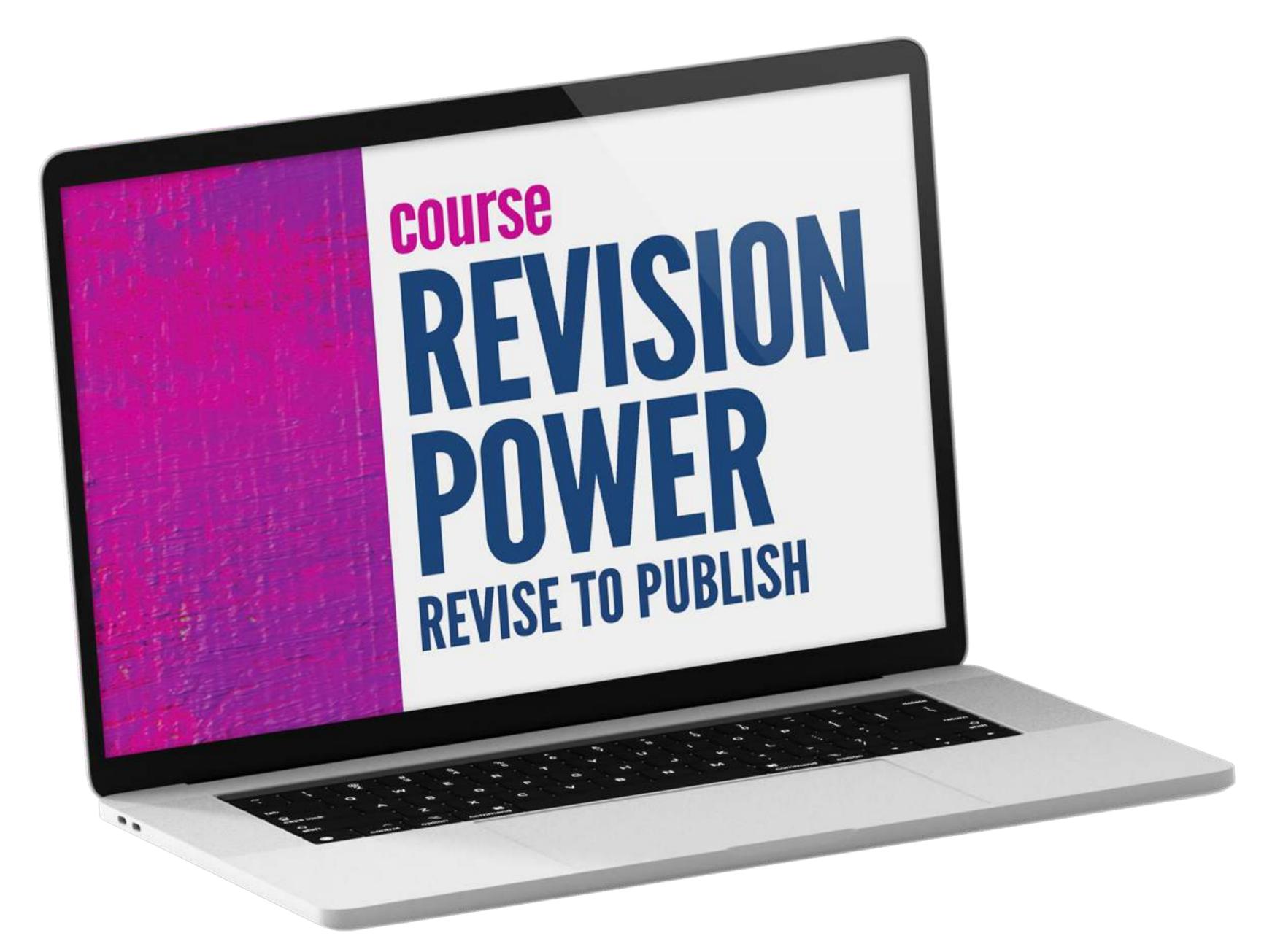












5 workshops devoted to revising and improving your fiction

PLUS 5 workshops devoted to nonfiction

...transform a slow story opening.

... revamp the beginning of your article from "meh" to OMG.

You will...

... revise dialogue so it moves your story ahead.

show, not tell.

You will find out how to ...

...sharpen the focus of your story or article.

...addcolorand vour writing.

You will be taught how to ...

...rework your sentences for greater economy, clarity, and flow.

... revise your work to meet a specific publisher's need.

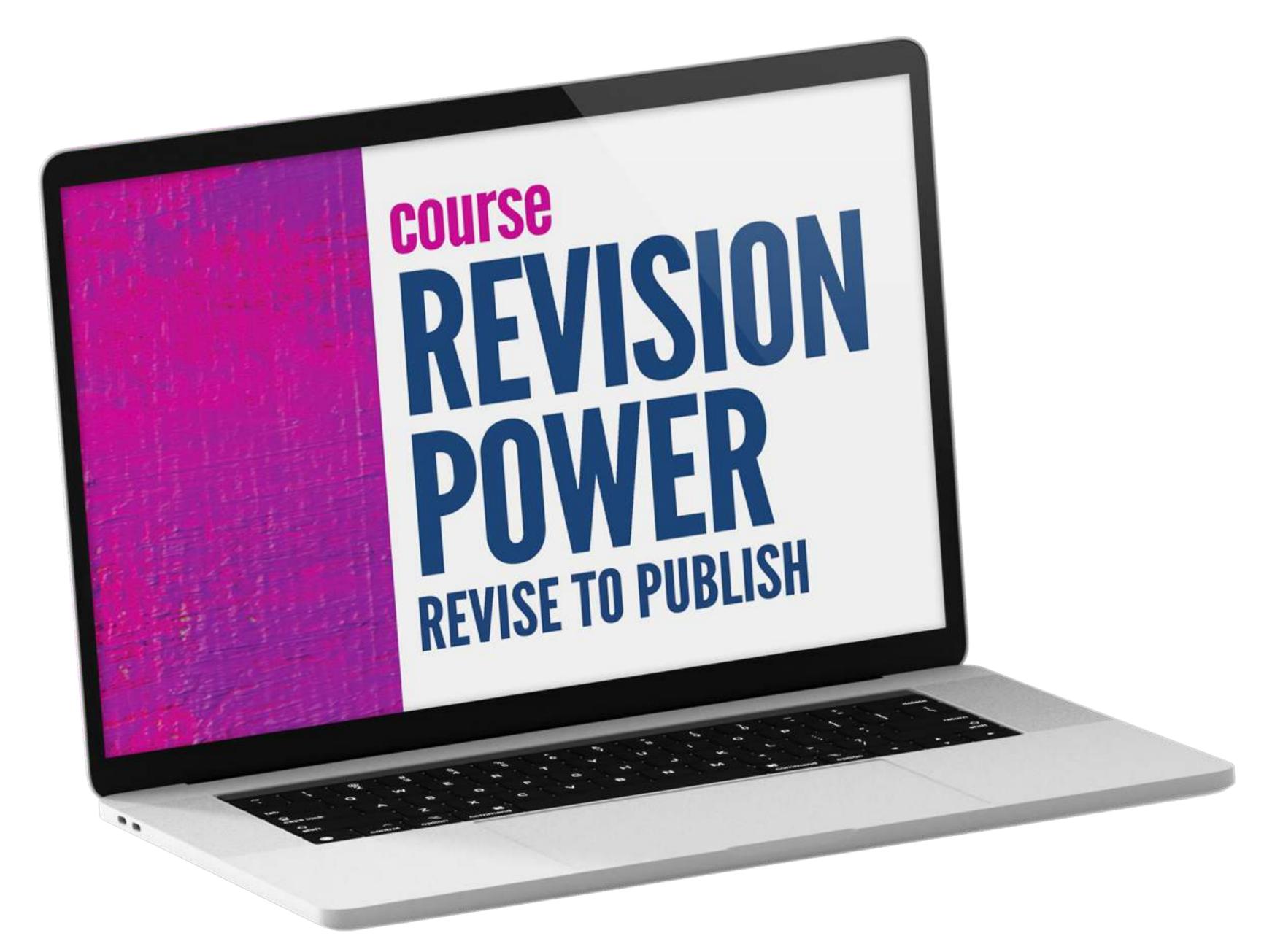
5 workshops devoted to fiction

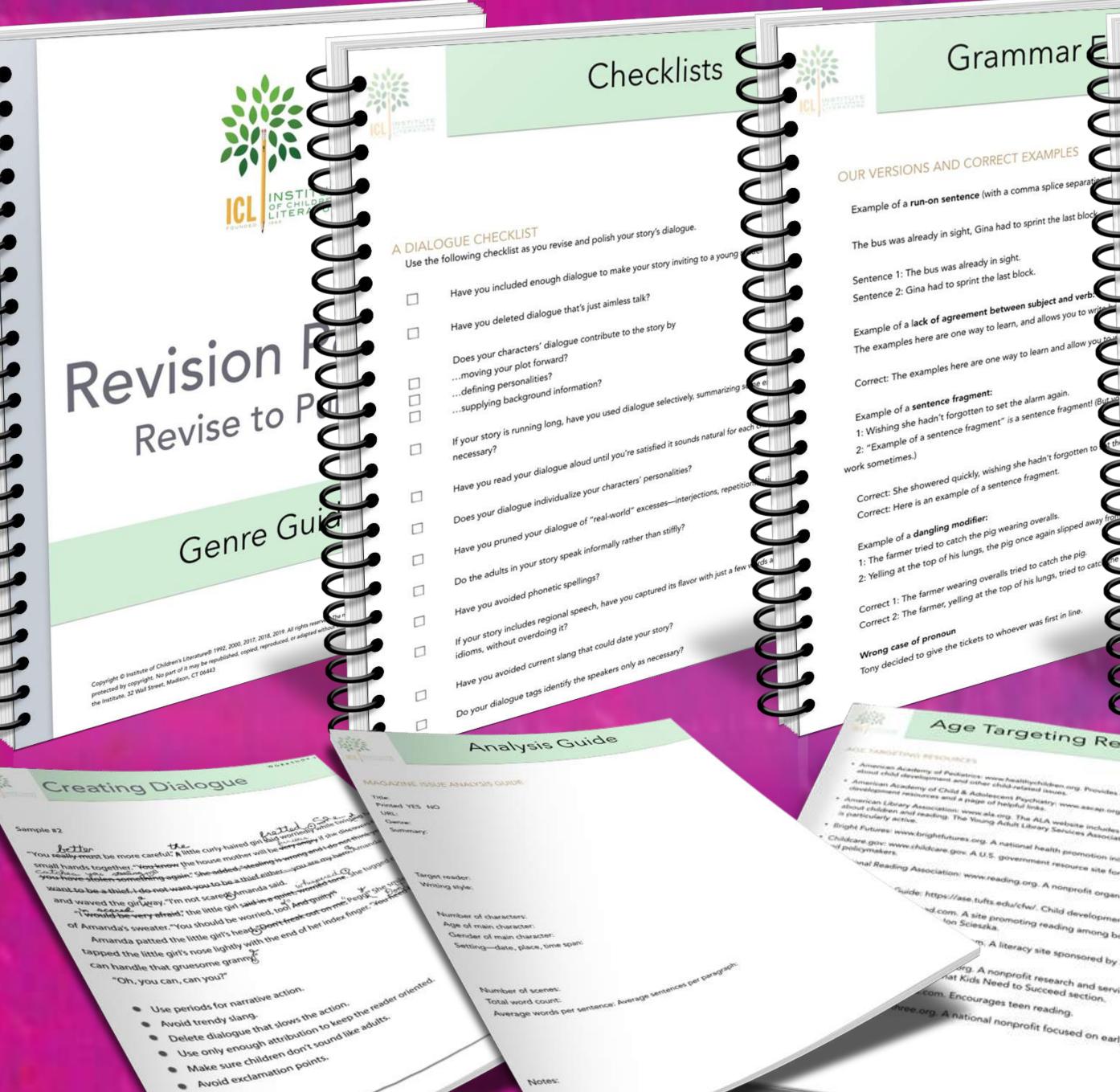
- Workshop #1- Reshaping a Story
- Workshop #2- Focusing on Characters
- Workshop #3- Creating Dialogue
- Workshop #4- Making the Most (and Least) of Your Language
- Workshop #5- To the Editor's Desk from Yours

5 workshops devoted to nonfiction

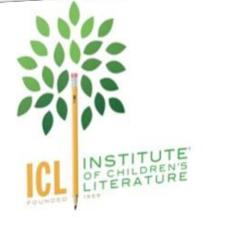
- Workshop #6- Reshaping Your Nonfiction Article or Book
- Workshop #7- Hooking Your Reader (and Editor)
- Workshop #8- Details and Color: Tell a Story with an Article
- Workshop #9- Working Your Words: Language and Style
- Workshop #10- Revising for Submission







Avoid exclamation points.



Grammar E

Age Targeting Resc

sociation: www.reading.org. A nonprofit organization focused on

od.com. A site promoting reading among boys, who generally

m. A literacy site sponsored by author James

org. A nonprofit research and service organization

rg. A national nonprofit focused on early learning.

suide: https://ase.tufts.echs/cfw/. Child development topics.

hat Kids Need to Succeed section.

n. Encourages teen reading.

WORKSHOP 1

CHECK YOUR STORY'S OPENING Divide your story's total wordage by four, then start at the beginning and man your manuscript. How far along is your story at this point? Is your plot ready with preliminaries? If you're some distance from the main action, you'll know a out how many words you need to cut from your opening and do what's necessary Don't worry about rewriting at this early stage. The idea here is just to do some the stage for what's to come. You'll undoubtedly want to make additional charges the stage for what's to come.

Too many writers begin with a lot of informational background rather story. An important skill for a writer is to know how to weave the back story, which should never be sacrificed for the sake of information.

Here are some things to look for and correct when your opening section spra

Starting your story too far back in time. Your 10-year-old character, Emily, is now the school play. Do you need to show her being nervous the night before, tossin. need to show her being nervous in the morning before school, barely touching her being nervous in the morning before school. her being nervous right on the spot, when the drama coach hands out the scripts

Including extraneous information up front. Is it important that Emily has a litt dog named Ben, a collection of sea glass? Even if these facts play a role in your story. doesn't have to know about them right away. Unclutter your opening by reserving

Including unnecessary dialogue. You know that young readers are including unnecessary dialogue. You know that young readers are attracts.

Conversation on a page, so it's a good idea to use plenty of dialogue in your ope.

Narrowing Your Focus

Your Turn

WORKSHOP 1

Here's a partial summary of a middle-grade adventure story and some background details imagined by the writer. How many are vital to the story?

At summer camp in the mountains, Seth's counselor sprains his ankle badly during a hike. Seth volunteers to lead the other campers back to the trailhead and summon help. He's confident he knows the way, and besides, there are plenty of blazes to follow. But at a fork in the trail, the blazes disappear. Which way had they come? The ground is too hard to have taken footprints. Spurning a grubby map produced by the youngest camper, Seth decides it doesn't really matter. As long as they keep heading downhill, they're bound to come to the creek—heck, they'll be able to hear the creek—and then to the county road . . .

Circle the background facts you would save for inclusion in the story:

The camp is in a beautiful pocket of the Great Smoky Mountains.

- 4. This father is an aluminus or the camp.

 5. His father is a busy lawyer who still keeps fit with jogging, rowing, and cross-country skiing.

of per land to a familier to god brongs at a peak point and

at 14 hours and 31 minutes was more than two hours bette from that the off

looking back on his famous wirm.

"Myseu rounsproph rega and Lonests on rounspland spile) region (go 8, gal rold s.)

the bound to will

- 7. Seth's mother has chided him for being arrogant.

MARROWING YOUR ARTICLE'S FOCUS IND SLANT

Last's take the swimming while a step further Look through the prove of edictions. Underline, carde, or highlight the key words or planted below.
Write the key words, or highlight the key words or planted below. Write the key words in the left margin. Use the sample formed belt POSSIBLE FOCUS

KEY WORDIPHRASE miss of pairmed . I

THOOMS PROMET

Where to land lenseet

2. Swimming is good for you

expect in terms of cost, how to know it an instructor

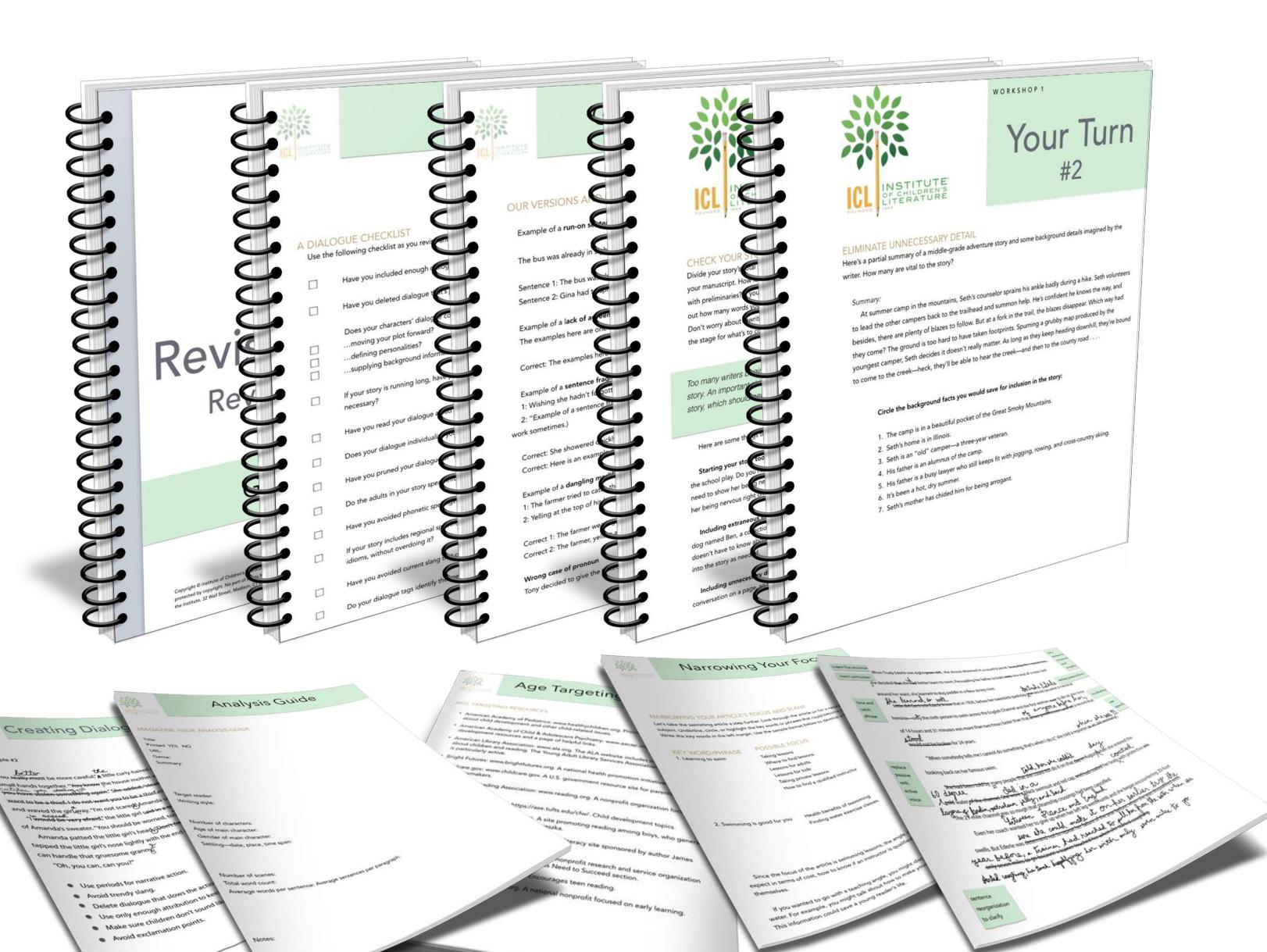
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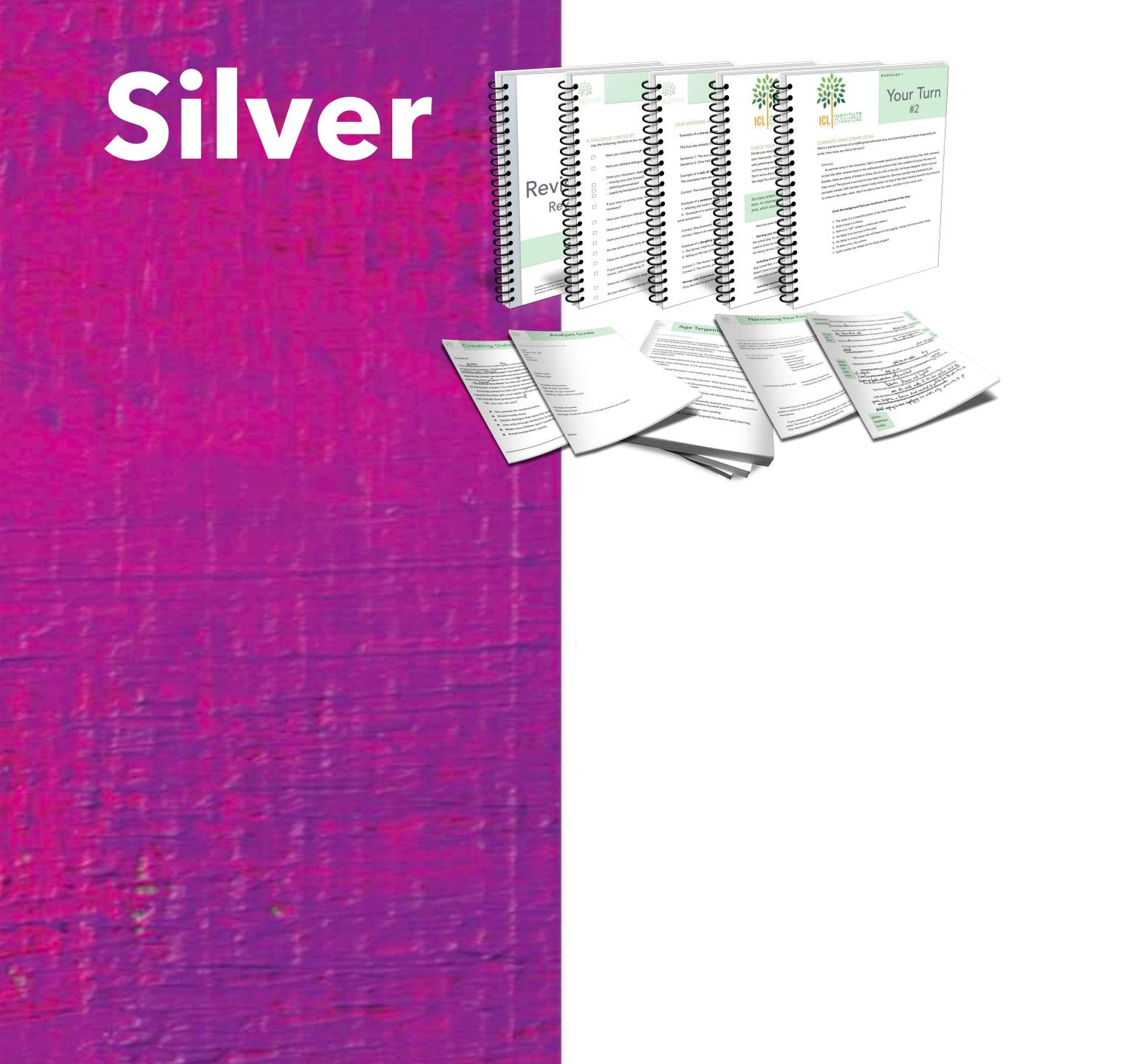
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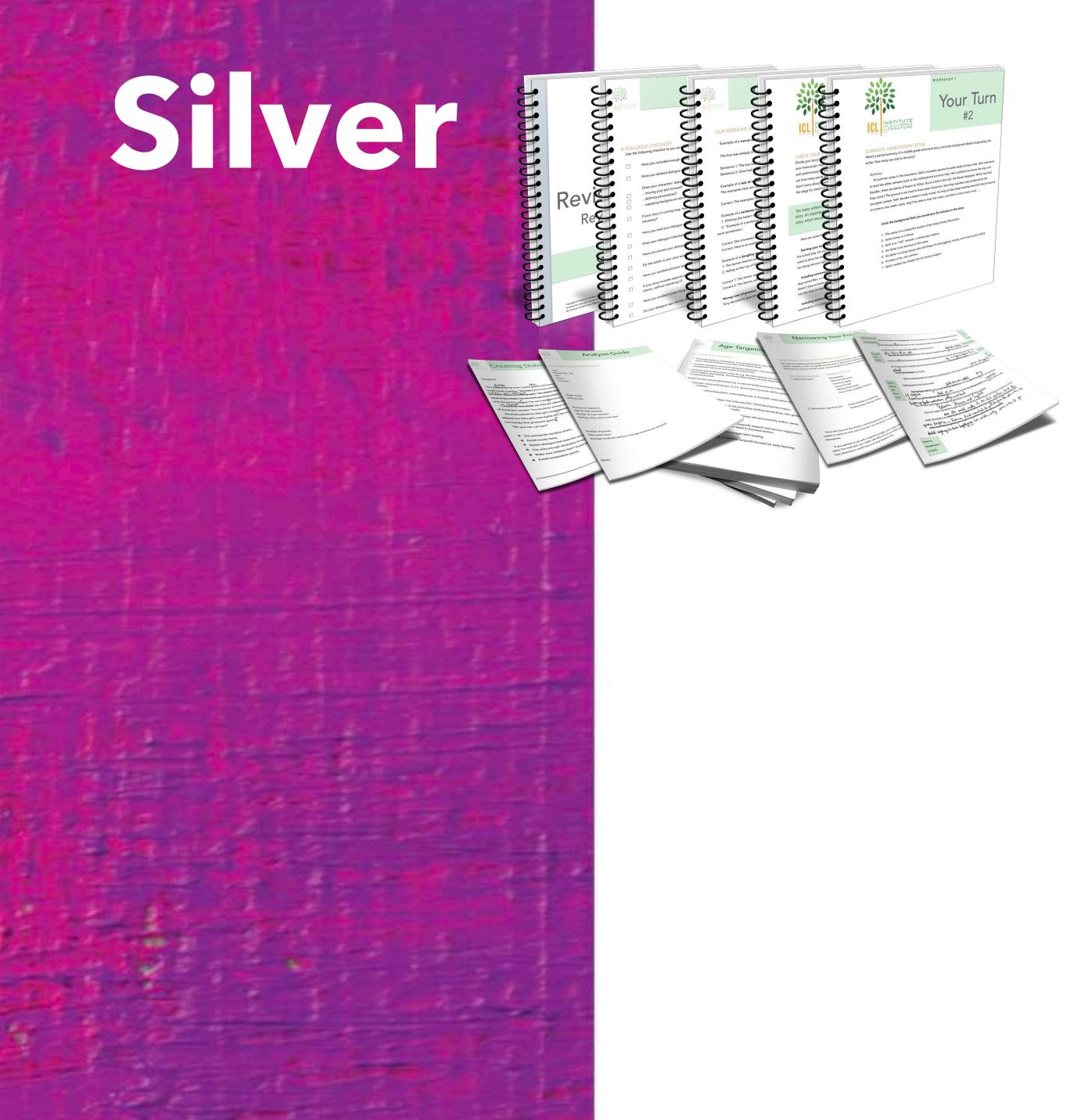
sted to go with a teaching angle

Ou might talk about how themselves.

Silver

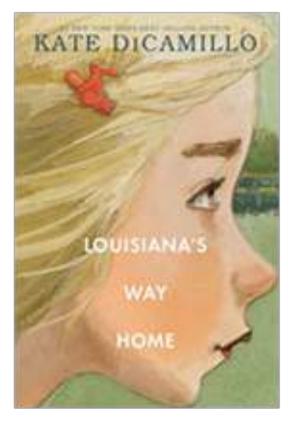


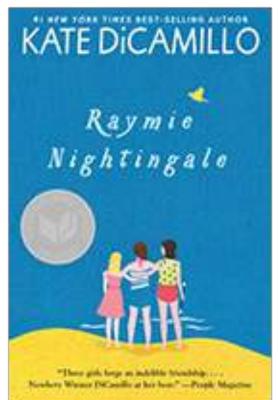




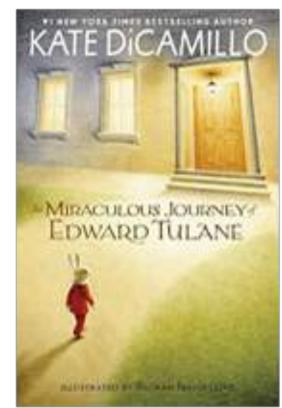


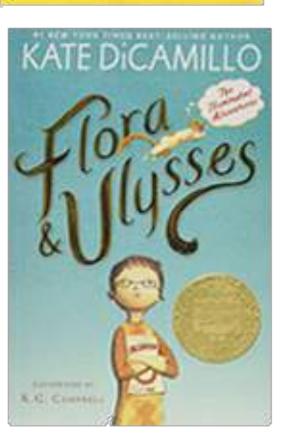


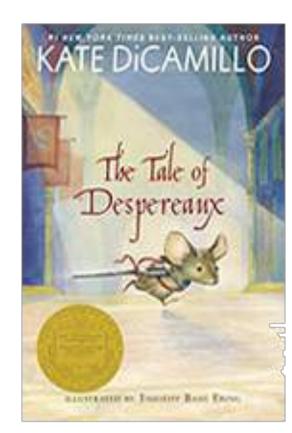


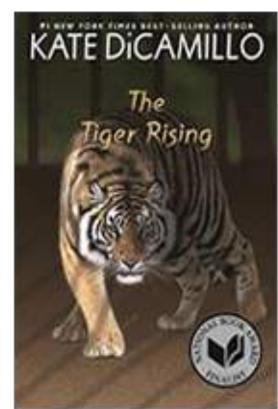


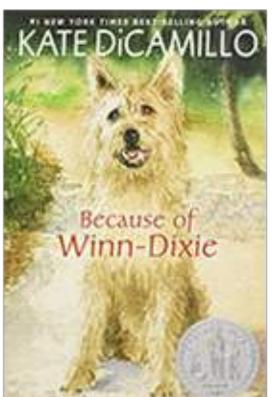


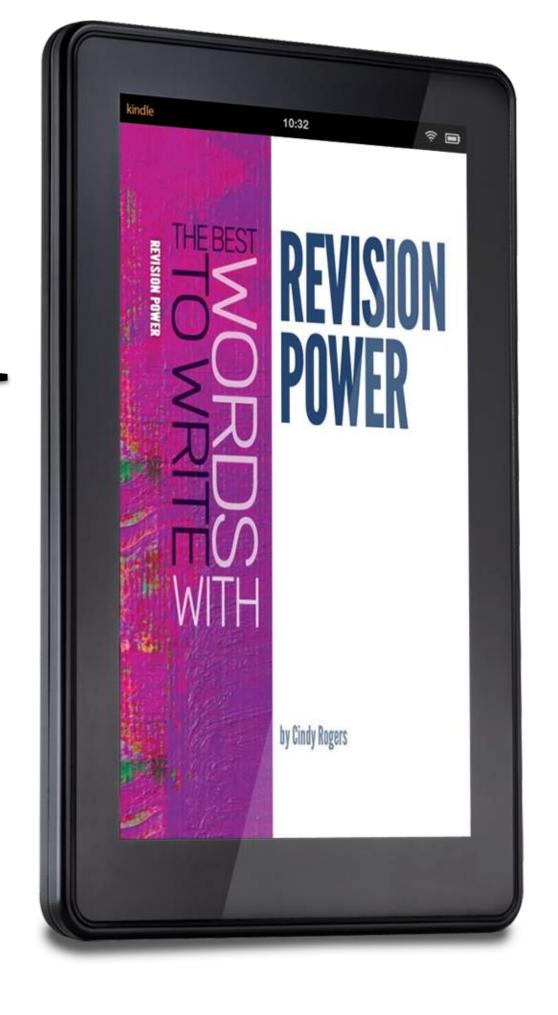




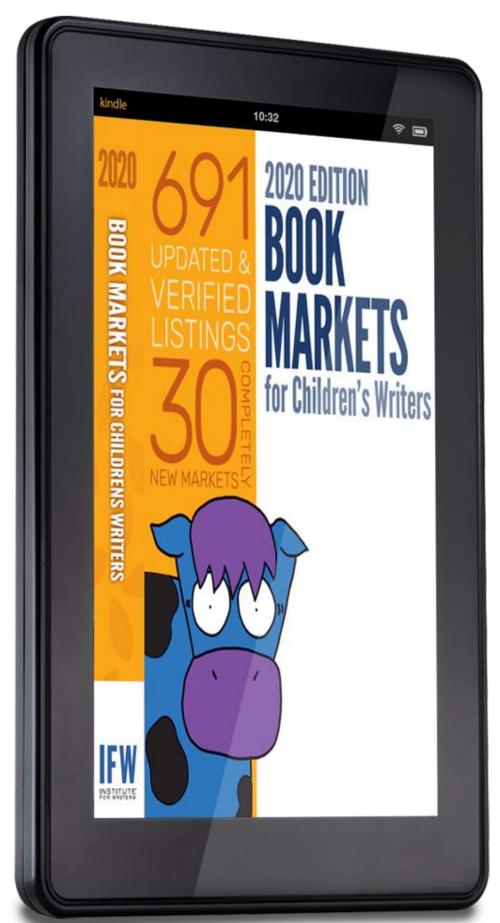




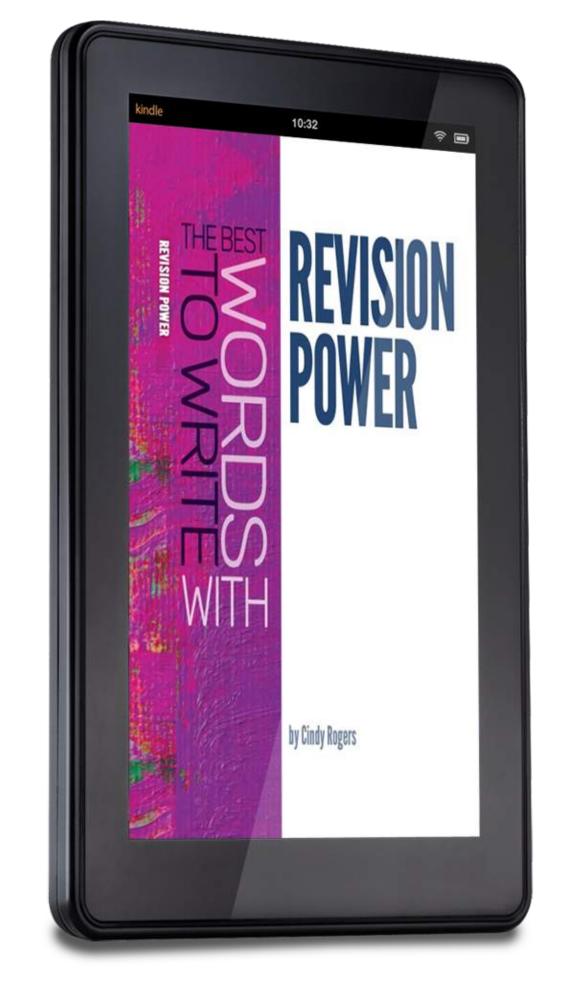








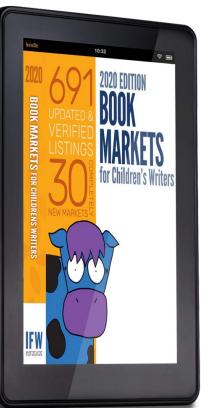




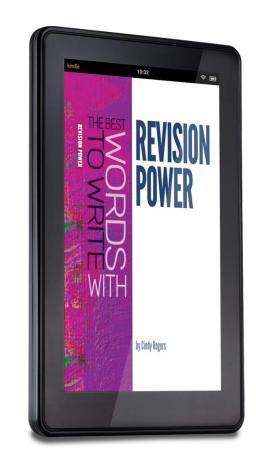




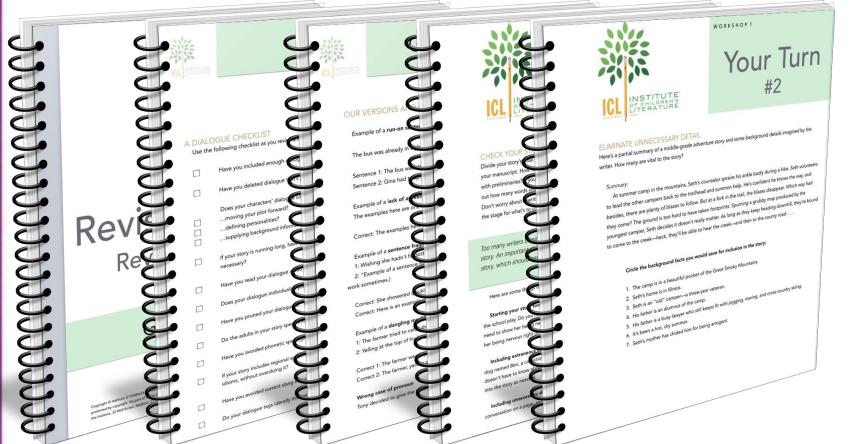


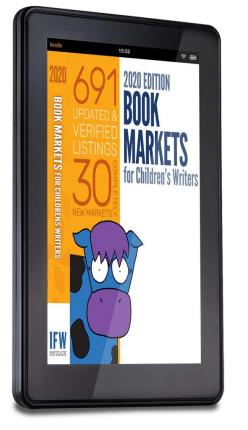


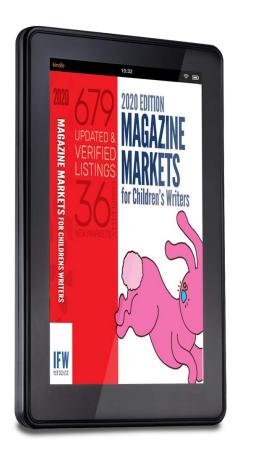


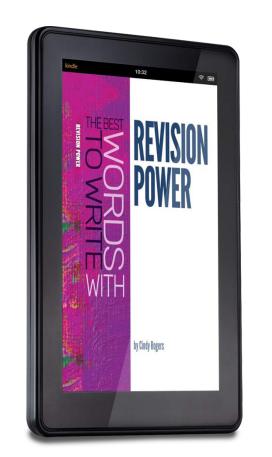




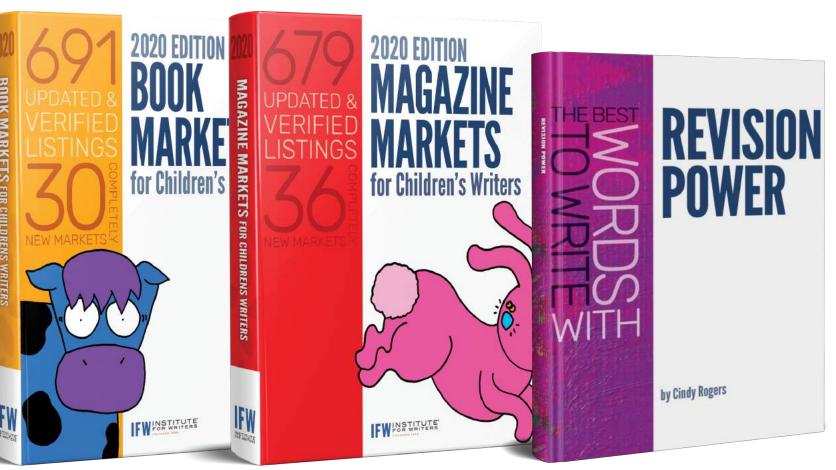


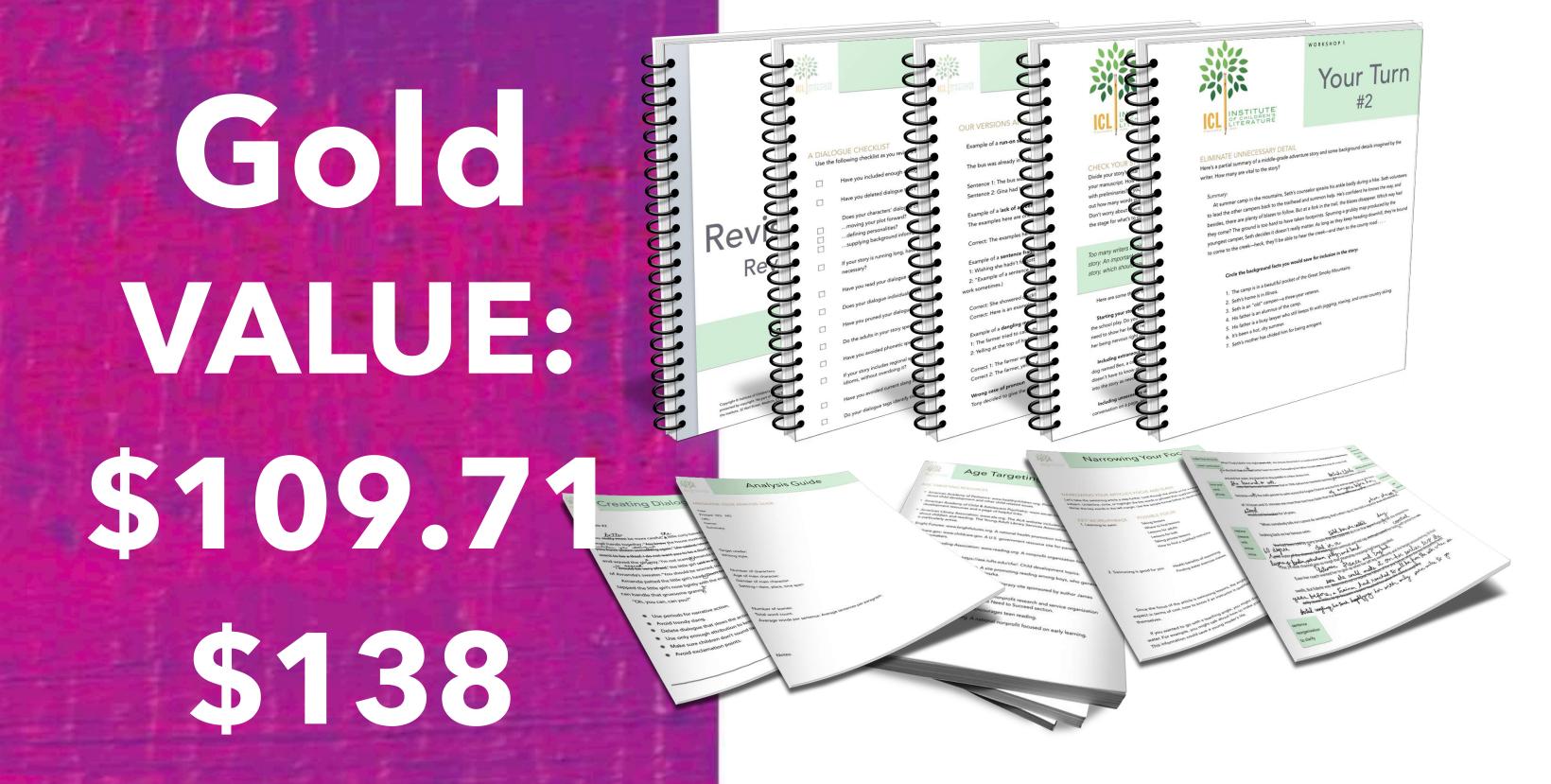


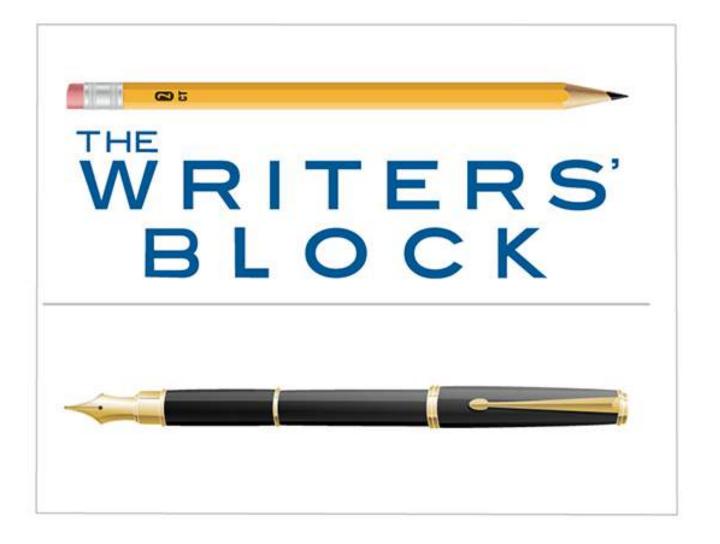


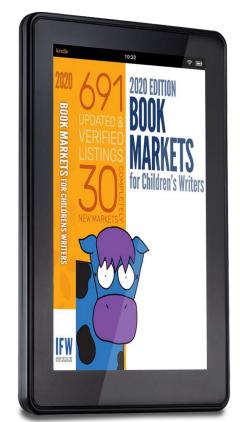




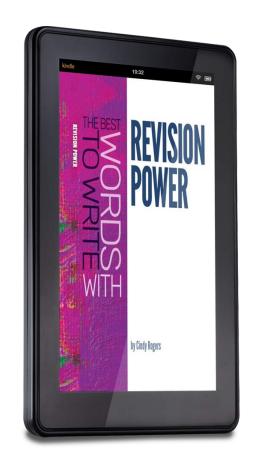


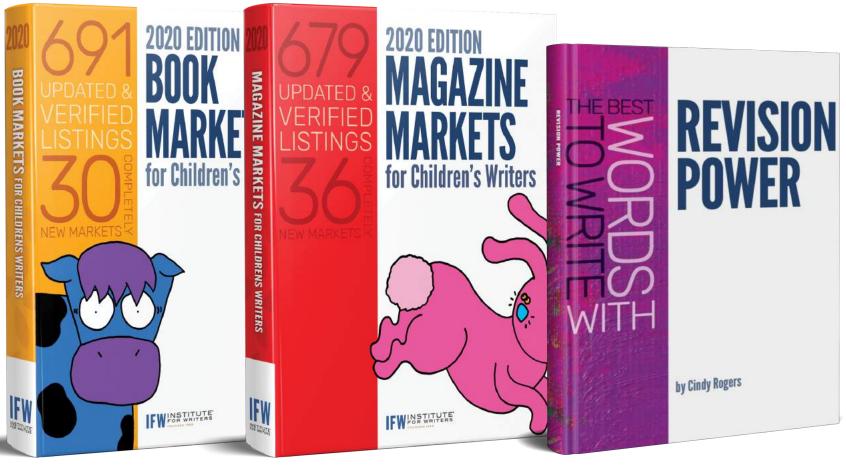




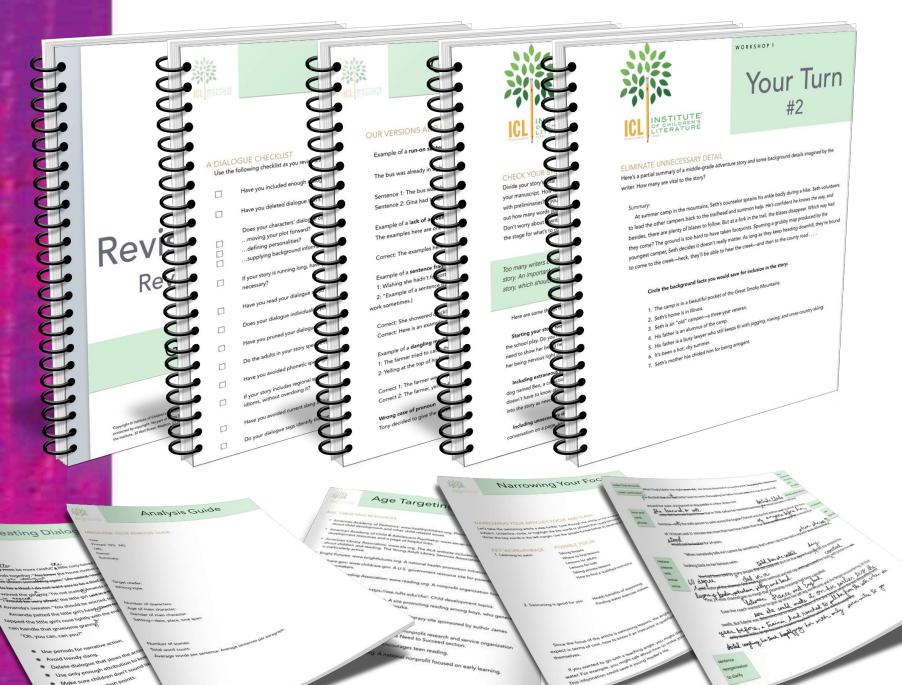




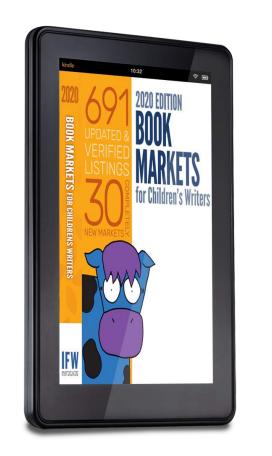




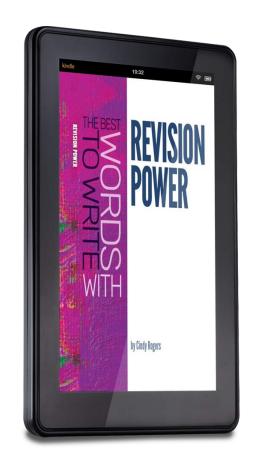


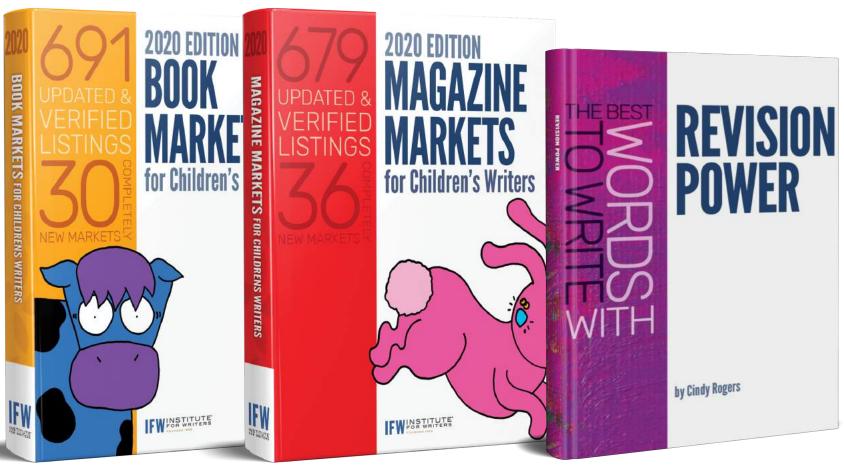














Gold





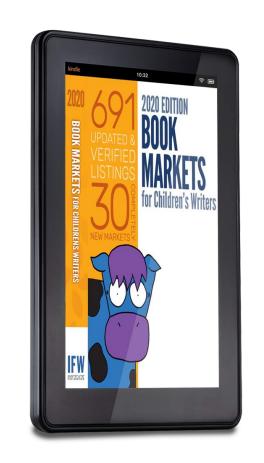
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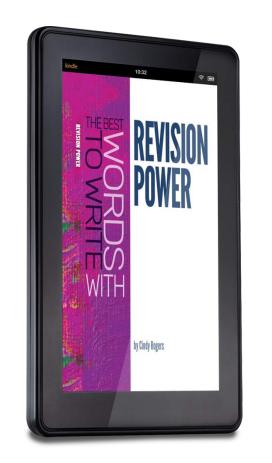
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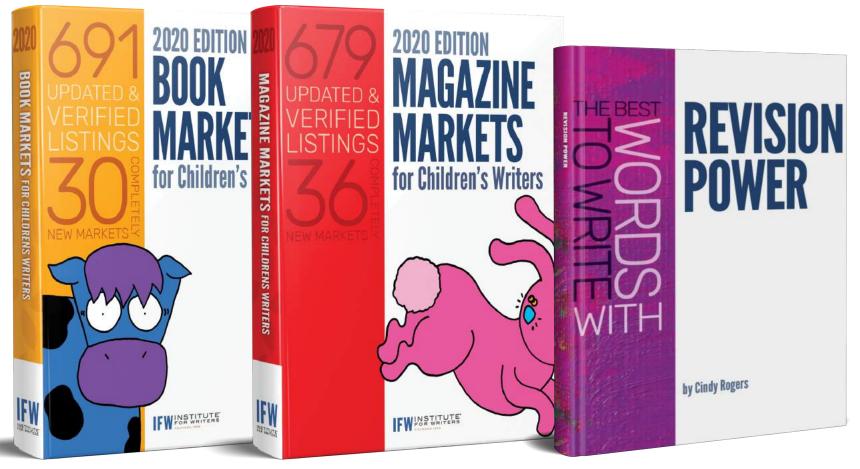
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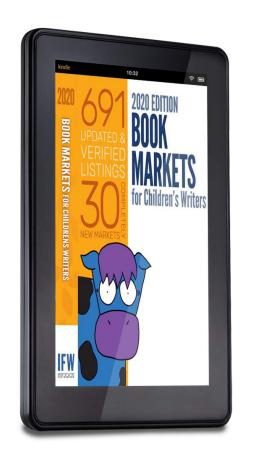


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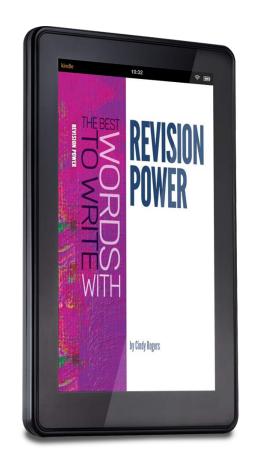
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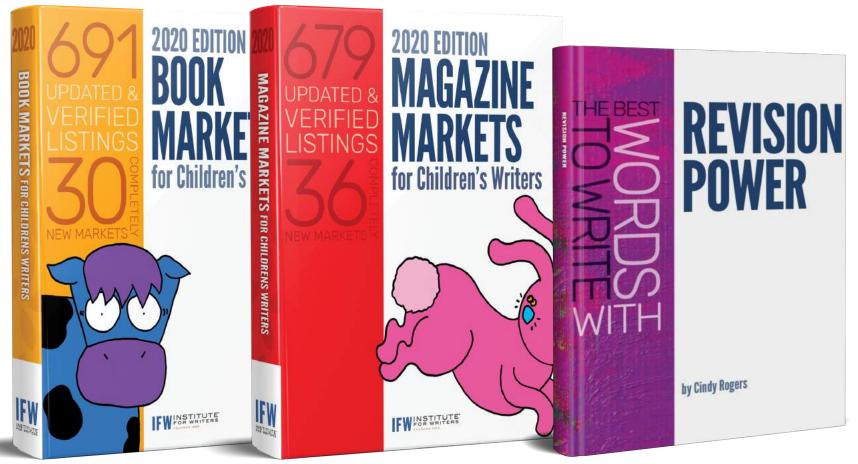
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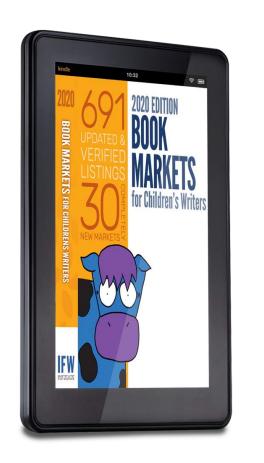


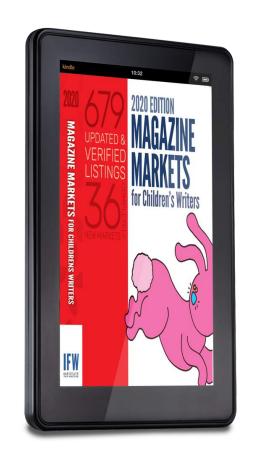
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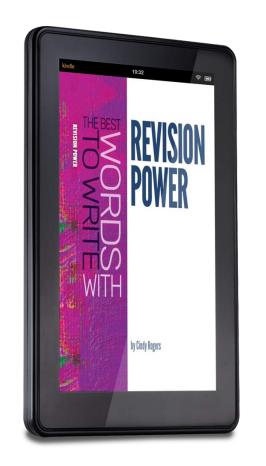
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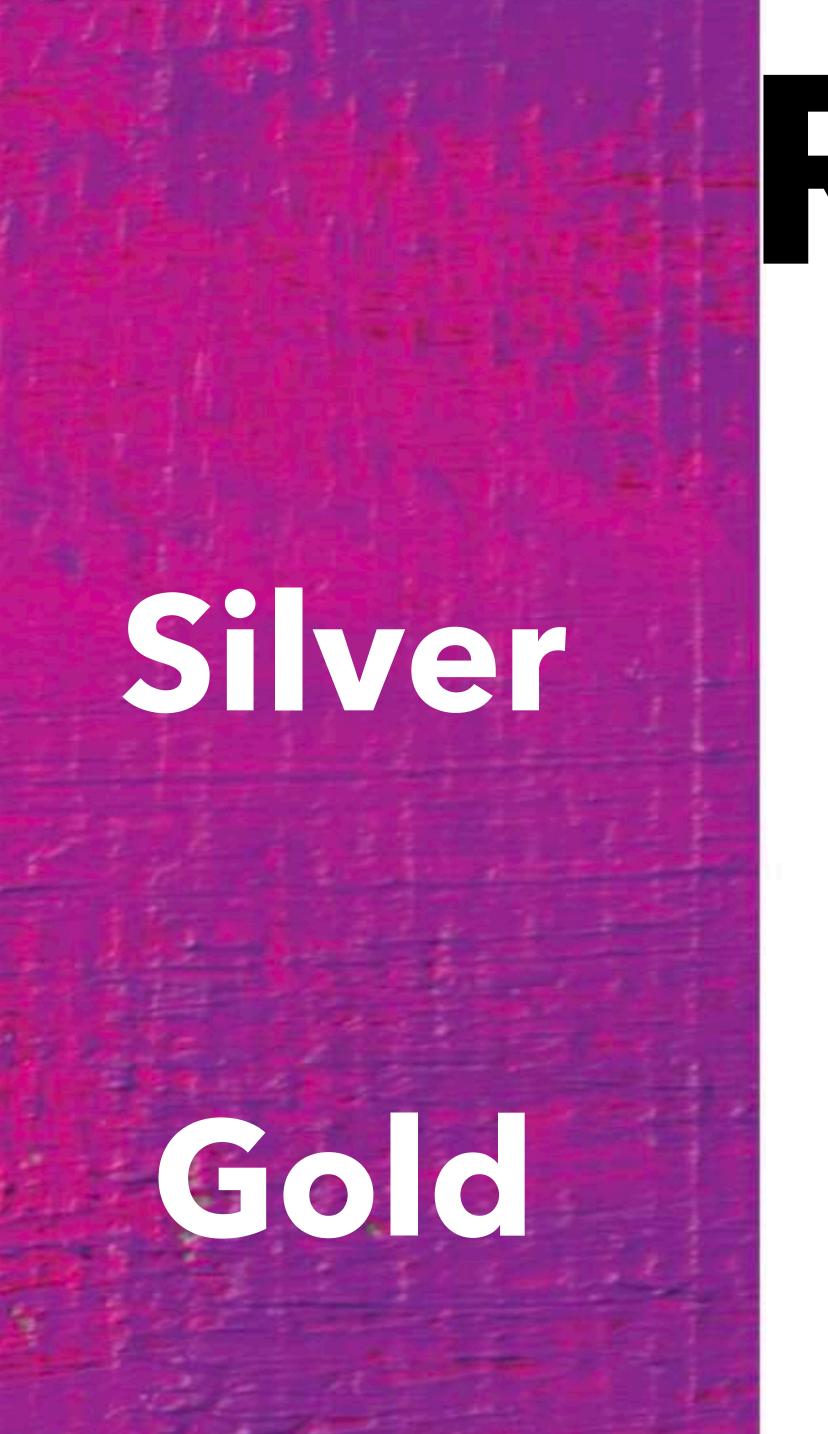












Regular price:

\$247

\$297

(including the bonuses, value = \$2,444.71)



Silver

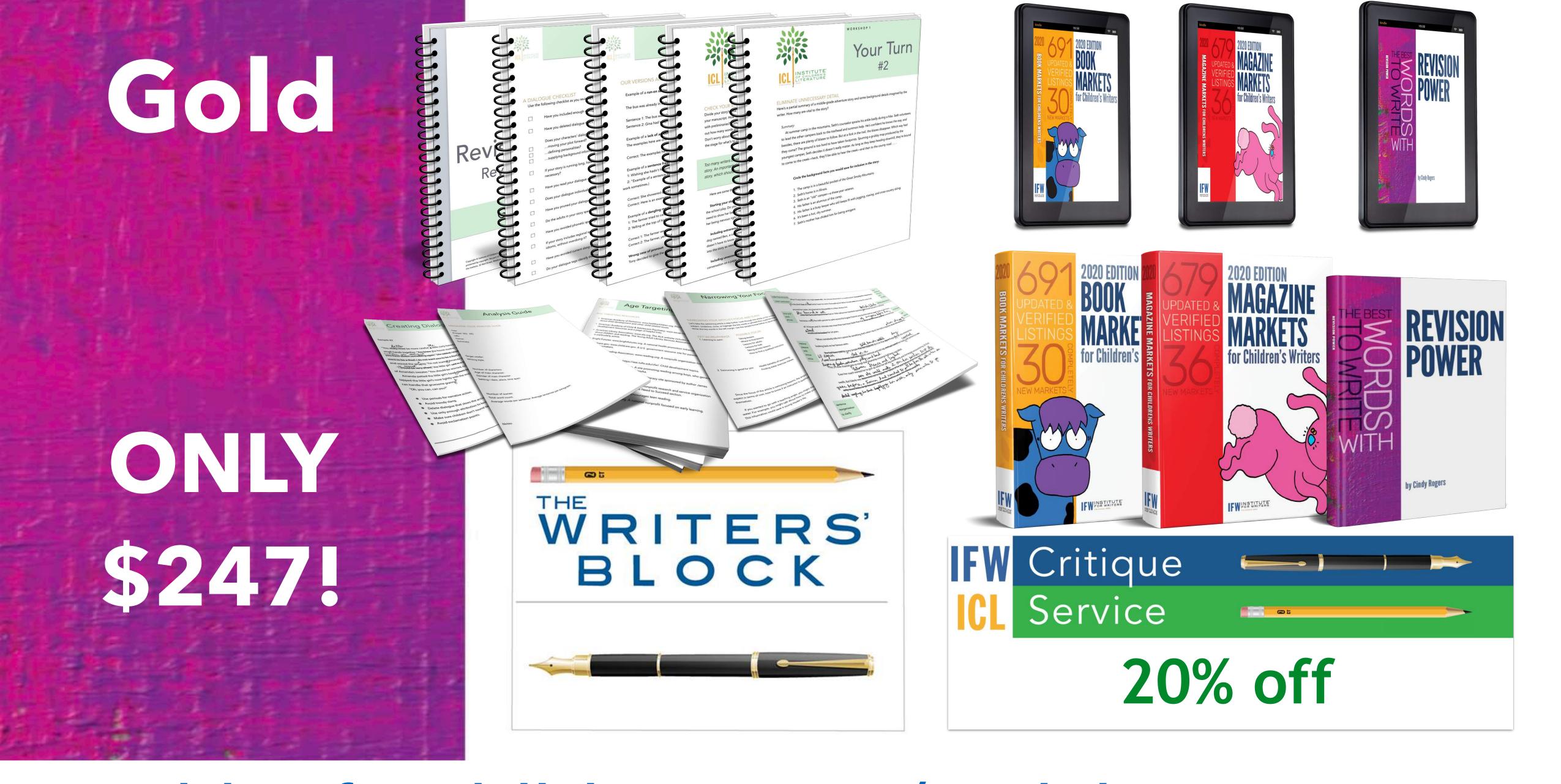
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