Revising a Poem

1.Copy and paste your original poem onto a new document.

2.Leave the original poem as it is to allow for comparison after revision.

3.Choose the line that you like the best and mark it in some way (e.g., highlight, underline). Consider what makes this line your favorite.

4.Identify and bold all of the nouns in your poem. Review each noun and think about making them more specific or vivid. For example, instead of "trees," you could use "pines" or "maples."

5.Change the color of the verbs or verbals in your poem to distinguish them. Replace at least one verb or verbal with a more interesting or unique choice.

6.Search for adjectives in your poem. Remove any adjectives that do not add significant meaning or strength to the line. Read the line without the adjective and ensure it still makes sense.

7.Review your poem for any lines that sound more like sentences from a story than lines of poetry. Consider removing or rephrasing these phrases to enhance the poetic flow.

8.Delete ten percent of the words in your poem. Calculate the total number of words, round it to the nearest 10s, and multiply that number by 10. Remove that many words from your poem.

9.Consider the line breaks in your poem. Evaluate if any lines could benefit from enjambment (continuation of thought without punctuation) to maintain tension and engage the reader.