

This is a sample of line edits on a manuscript.

“Gobble! Gobble! Turkey gonna git ya!”

Sissy runs from her brother James and escapes into the car beside their father. She slams the door of the 1951 Hudson Hornet and presses the lock to get away from the merciless teasing. Daddy starts the engine. They head from town for a Sunday trip to Aunt Serafina’s.

Sissy doesn’t expect conversation. Her father lights a Camel and peers at the road. He holds the cigarette between two fingers, resting his palm on the steering wheel. Sissy watches smoke ringlets hang then feather bluish-gray past his wire-rimmed glasses and wide-brimmed fedora.

K, I like how the opening and closing key images are of the father. The final image is particularly compelling when he expresses his desire to keep the farm off his clothes. We see that this man of few words speaks only when it’s to keep his shoes clean rather than bond with his daughter. Yet he is also complex in that he is generous with his sister...

Comment [LH1]: Compare this line of dialogue to the final line of the piece. What is the journey? The shape?

Comment [LH2]: Nice beginning in the middle of things

Deleted: silent-morose

Comment [LH3]: Good active verb

Deleted: her brother and his

Comment [LH4]: The lines before and after show these comments, so you can delete.

Comment [LH5]: Good active verb

Deleted: – man of few words, lifelong

Deleted: smoker –

Comment [LH6]: I recommend cutting the dashes and choosing between wisp and feather

Deleted: and wisp,

Deleted: –

Deleted: –

Comment [LH7]: You’ve grabbed essential details of him – from the Camel to the fedora. We can see him.