How to Rewrite a Story

So, you have written a great story and showed it to your teacher or your friend. Now the person who read and reviewed your story has told you that it is pretty good, but it can be even better if you rewrite it. What? You thought you were finished. You may be unhappy to hear this news. It may sound unkind. You like your story the way it is and may feel unsure that reworking it would be a good idea.

Well, when it comes to writing, rewriting almost always improves a story. Here are some tips to get you started:

• Reread the story with the notes from your friend or teacher.
• Decide which comments to keep. Some will be helpful; some will probably be unhelpful. Use the comments that make sense to you.
• Check to see that your periods and commas are in the right place.
• Look to see where your paragraphs start and end. A paragraph is like an idea. Each time you have a new idea, or each time a new person speaks in the story, make a new paragraph.
• Think about what happens. Is any of the action unclear? If so, try to retell that part of the story.
• Think about your characters. Maybe you need to rebuild a character by picking new words to describe him or her. This can help your readers to understand the character better.
• Think about the meaning of the story. Can you add anything to make the meaning clearer?
• Reread the story out loud. Can you think of any more changes to make?
• Think some more.
• Retype or recopy the story, putting in all the changes you have made.
• Ask someone to reread it to make sure there are no new spelling or typing mistakes.