

Extract: Structural Editing

Here's an example of a story that has been structurally edited. Think about the types of changes that have been made and how it changes the story.

Editing—Example of 'Track Changes' feature

Pages ~~14-15~~16-17

Hiriwa swam closer to the dark shapes ~~to see what they were~~
A figure threw a silvery mist into the air.
It flew out, then settled into the water, ~~grasping~~ ~~grabbing~~ all i
Hiriwa darted ~~out of its~~ ~~away~~ ~~clutches~~ ~~and traveled further on~~.

Very soon he found his three friends, ~~bound~~ ~~squashed in a pile~~ ~~together~~,
~~bound~~ ~~by~~ invisible threads.
"I've come to save you," Hiriwa shouted.
"You can't!" Puru sobbed. "There's no way out."

Pages ~~16-17~~18-19

~~"We could chew our way out," Squiggles suggested.~~
~~Hiriwa ground his teeth around a thread.~~
~~Puru gnawed a knot with his bill.~~
~~Squiggles chewed with his horny beak.~~
~~Spotty nibbled holes until the threads began to look raggedy.~~

~~"Now, try pushing your way out," Hiriwa gasped.~~
~~They pushed and Hiriwa pulled. "Keep trying. Don't give up!"~~
~~But nothing happened.~~
~~They worked harder and faster.~~
~~The threads began to strain but not enough for even Squiggles to~~
~~squeeze through the holes.~~

Page ~~20-21~~

Hiriwa needed air.
He sped to the top, ~~dived~~ ~~leapt~~ into the air
and ~~dove~~ ~~dived~~ down to the depths.
Closer to the rocky shore, Hiriwa ~~he~~ found a mussel shell.
Hiriwa yanked it off ~~with his mouth~~ and swam back to the others.

~~"Phew, we thought you'd given up," said Puru.~~
~~"I'd never do that," Hiriwa mumbled with his mouth full.~~
Squiggles held the threads tight as Hiriwa sawed back and forth.
"It's starting to fray, now," Puru yelled.
Hiriwa sawed until his mouth ached.
"Keep going, Hiriwa," urged Spotty, "You've cut through one of the
~~twists in the threads."~~

Pages ~~18-19~~22-23

Then all of a sudden, the lines jerked.
The shell fell from Hiriwa's mouth.
The threads ~~pressed against the bodies of his friends,~~
~~pulling them~~ ~~pulled his friends~~ away from him.

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Excerpt provided by Maria Gill 2015