**Stanza Breaks:** *Stanza* means *room* in Italian. Stanzas can work like paragraphs in a poem to organize the lines or sentences. They work with line breaks to influence how you read and understand a poem. Circle the version of "The Committee Weighs In" by Andrea Cohen that works best. Use your gut and then explain in two or three sentences why you made that choice.

The Committee Weighs in

I tell my mother I've won the Nobel Prize. Again? she says. Which discipline this time? It's a little game we play: I pretend I'm somebody, and she pretends she isn't dead.

The Committee Weighs in

I tell my mother

I've won the Nobel Prize.

Again? she says. Which

discipline this time?

It's a little game

we play: I pretend

I'm somebody, and she

pretends she isn't dead.

The Committee Weighs in

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and she

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isn't dead.

**Word Choice: Extra Credit**: Complete the word-level revisions suggested below and email me before and after drafts for extra credit

* 1. Vivid nouns: replace generic nouns with specific ones: for example, replace "car" with "Camry" or "Porsche" and "store" with "Walmart" or "Nordstroms."
  2. Powerful verbs: replace "to be" verbs (were, was, is, etc.) and blah verbs with more vivid verbs.
  3. Cut all adverbs (they usually end with "ly" and prop up weak verbs: ex. replace "ran quickly" with "raced" or "flew.")
  4. Cut double adjectives (for example, "fat, old man"). Pick one.
  5. Cut two "the"s, two "and"s, every "really" and all waffle words (sort of, kind of like).