

Show, Don't Tell
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"Show, Don't Tell" Worksheet #2

One of the most important skills of a writer is the ability to SHOW how a character is feeling without TELLING the reader. Without saying, "He was mad," you can effectively tell the reader about his anger by focusing on how he looks, what he's doing, what he's saying, and how he's saying it.

Use one or two complete sentences to SHOW that your character is:

1. Sad _____



2. Happy _____



3. Angry _____



4. Embarrassed _____



"Show, Don't Tell" Worksheet #3

1. List three verbs that SHOW the feeling of anger.
2. List three verbs that SHOW the feeling of joy.
3. Write one line of DIALOGUE (something a character *says*) that SHOWS that a character is feeling tired. (You may not say, "I'm tired." Remember, SHOW, don't TELL.)
4. Write one line of dialogue that SHOWS that a character is excited.
5. Characters not only show their feelings in DIALOGUE, but also in ACTIONS. Write a sentence in which a character SHOWS fear through ACTIONS.



"Show, Don't Tell" Worksheet #4

Authors use the "Show, don't tell" rule to *SHOW* a character trait (such as shyness, kindness, loyalty, etc.) just as they do to show a feeling.

This example TELLS the reader that a character is kind: Kelley is kind.

This example SHOWS the reader that a character is kind: Kelley left her place at the front of the line and walked over to her librarian, Mr. Finch. "Here," she said. "Let me help you carry those heavy encyclopedias."

Choose three of the character traits listed below. Write a sentence (or two) *SHOWING* that trait. Use a line of dialogue or an action - or both!

Mean	Helpful	Smart	Messy	Friendly	Hard-working
Bossy	Rude	Neat	Honest	Lazy	Polite

Character trait #1: _____

Sentence showing character trait #1:

Character trait #2: _____

Sentence showing character trait #2:

Character trait #3: _____

Sentence showing character trait #3:



"Show, Don't Tell" Adding Details to a Scene

You can add details to a scene with the "Show, don't tell" technique. *SHOW* what the scene looks like, rather than *TELLING*.

Choose one of the *TELLING* sentences below and use it as a springboard to write a short, detailed paragraph that *SHOWS* the scene.

- The line of students was crooked.*
- Marcia's desk was a mess.*
- The monster movie was scary.*
- Fred wasn't a very good artist.*
- The substitute teacher dressed weirdly.*
- The house appeared to be haunted.*
