

SAMPLE LESSON FOR SHOW NOT TELL

SHOW NOT TELL

Quick Explanation:

- To create an interesting story, the writer needs to show *not* tell the reader about people, places, and things they are writing about.
- Showing creates mental pictures in the reader's mind.
- When readers get a clear picture, they are more engaged in the writer's story.

Examples of Show Not Tell: Sentences & Paragraphs

- Telling Sentence
 - It was an *unusual* cat.
- Showing Sentence
 - With *yellow eyes glowing red, long, black fur that stood on end, a mouth full of sharp pointed teeth that emitted a yowl like a tiger*, I knew that the small animal before me was *no ordinary cat*.
- Telling Sentence
 - The pizza was *delicious*.
- Showing Sentences – A showing PARAGRAPH
 - *Mushrooms and pepperoni sausage formed thick layers on top of one another while the white mozzarella cheese bubbled over the bright red tomato sauce. Each time I took a bite I planned it so that I got a taste of every luscious ingredient. My taste buds celebrated every single time! Oooh, so good.*

Examples of Show Not Tell: Character Development

- To develop your story, begin by thinking about the main character. You want to SHOW the reader what that character is like.
- Writers reveal their characters through six means:
 - What they say...
 - What they think...
 - What they do....
 - Description...
 - What the other characters say about them..
 - How other characters react to them...

Guided Practice: Show Not Tell

1. Walk into your classroom and yell, "*I can't believe it! This isn't fair!*" Wave your arms about and pace across the room with your eyes squinted.
2. In a normal voice ask students how they thought you were feeling when you can into the room? How did they know?
3. Record their responses on a chart.

You get to know a character by:

- what he/she does.
 - *Mrs. R marched into the classroom*
 - *She waved her arms and*
- what the author tells you about the way he/she looks.
 - *with a stormy look on her face.*
- what he/she says (and what others say about him/her).
 - *shouted, "You won't believe what just happened!" Someone had just run into her car in the parking lot.*

Independent Practice: Show Not Tell

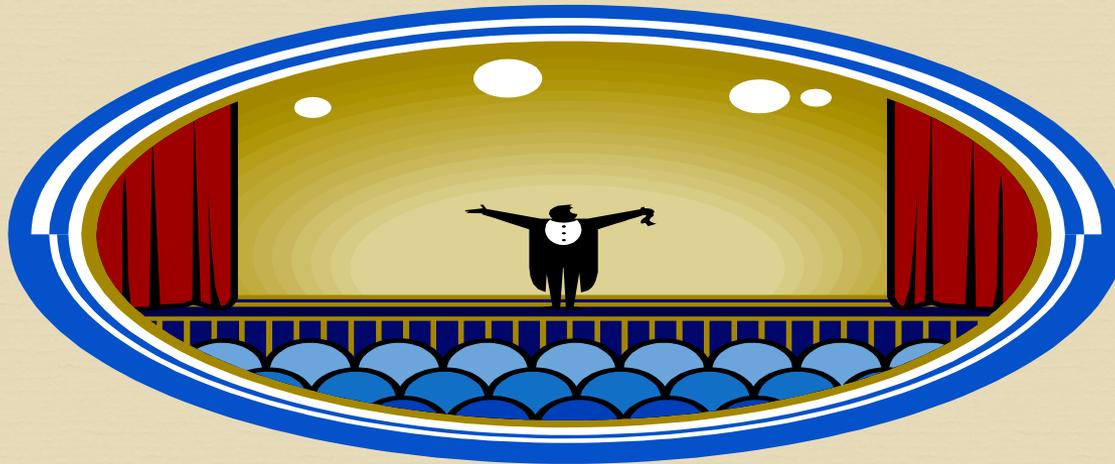
Rewrite sentences to write a showing not telling sentence.

- She was so sad when she lost her puppy.
- The cake was delicious.

Rewrite sentences to write a showing not telling paragraph.

- The garden was beautiful.
- It was a stormy night.
- It was an exciting day.

Show *Not* Tell Lesson



Show *Not* Tell



- ❧ To create an interesting story, the writer needs to show *not* tell the reader about people, places, and things they are writing about.
- ❧ Showing creates mental pictures in the reader's mind.
- ❧ When readers get a clear picture, they are more engaged in the writer's story.



Show *Not* Tell



❖ Telling Sentence

❖ It was an *unusual* cat.



❖ Showing Sentence

With yellow eyes glowing red, long, black fur that stood on end, a mouth full of sharp pointed teeth that emitted a yowl like a tiger, I knew that the small animal before me was no ordinary cat.

Show Don't Tell



Telling Sentence

The pizza was *delicious*.

Showing Sentences – A showing PARAGRAPH

Mushrooms and pepperoni sausage formed thick layers on top of one another while the white mozzarella cheese bubbled over the bright red tomato sauce. Each time I took a bite I planned it so that I got a taste of every luscious ingredient. My taste buds celebrated every single time! Oooh, so good.

Show *Don't* Tell



- ❧ To develop your story, begin by thinking about the main character. You want to **SHOW** the reader what that character is like.
- ❧ Writers reveal their characters through six means:
 - ❧ What they say...
 - ❧ What they think...
 - ❧ What they do....
 - ❧ Description...
 - ❧ What the other characters say about them..
 - ❧ How other characters react to them...



	You get to know a character by what he does.	
	You get to know a character by what he says and what others say about him.	
	You get to know a character by his thoughts and what others think about him.	
	You get to know a character by his feelings and how others feel about him.	
	You get to know a character by what the author tells you about the way he looks.	

Mini Lesson:

Show *Don't* Tell



Guided Writing Lesson

Walk into your classroom and yell, "I can't believe it! This isn't fair!" Wave your arms about and pace across the room with your eyes squinted.

In a normal voice ask students how they thought you were feeling when you came into the room? How did they know?

Record their responses on a chart.

You Get to Know a Character by...



You get to know a character by what he does.



You get to know a character by what he says and what others say about him.



You get to know a character by his thoughts and what others think about him.



You get to know a character by his feelings and how others feel about him.



You get to know a character by what the author tells you about the way he looks.

Mrs. R marched into the classroom with a stormy look on her face. She waved her arms and shouted, "You won't believe what just happened!" Someone had just run into her car in the parking lot.

Show *Don't* Tell



Mrs. R **marched** into the classroom with a **stormy** look on her face. She **waved** her arms and **shouted**, “You won’t **believe** what just happened!” Someone had just run into her car in the parking lot.



Show Not Tell



- ❧ She was so sad when she lost her puppy.
- ❧ The garden was beautiful.
- ❧ It was a stormy night.
- ❧ The cake was delicious.
- ❧ It was an exciting day.