



Show, Don't Tell!

Creative Writing



All of these things help us to SHOW a scene, rather than tell it.

Show not tell is a phrase you will have heard before.

The goal is to let your reader imply some of the emotions, actions or objects in your scene.

This engages the readers mind and makes them, unconsciously, part of your writing. It also means that you know HOW to use a language device to create meaning.

The Senses

Appealing to a range of senses in writing allows the reader to imagine a scene in a more vivid manner. It helps a writer to 'show' a scene, rather than tell it.



Example

With sweaty palms, the girl peeked out from behind the curtain. She gave a squeal as she noted the first three rows were already packed. With her legs feeling like jelly, she tried to block the chatter from the audience and walked off towards the dressing room.

The girl was nervous to go on to the stage.

Challenge!

Split into pairs.

Grab a pen and paper.

Your challenge is to write the sentence as “show” rather than the “tell” that will appear on the screen.

Remember, show not tell uses the 5 senses so try and re-write the sentences in a way that you would feel, see, smell, hear or taste the scene described.



#1



The boy was sad.





#2



The dog wanted to go for a walk.





#3



It was cold outside.





#4



The student was bored.





#5



The bedroom was a mess.

