Show, Don't Tell

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Telling names a feeling: *Sam was scared.* **Showing** lets the reader see it: *Sam's knees shook, and he gripped the railing.*

Ask: What would your face, hands and body do? What would you say?



1. Which sentence shows?

Circle the sentence that shows instead of tells.

1. Show that someone is excited.

- (a) Mia was excited.
- (b) Mia bounced on her toes and squealed.
- (c) Mia felt very excited.

2. Show that someone is tired.

- (a) Dad yawned and rubbed his eyes.
- (b) Dad was tired.
- (c) Dad felt sleepy and tired.

3. Show that it is cold.

- (a) It was very cold.
- (b) It was freezing.
- (c) My teeth chattered and my fingers turned pink.

4. Show that someone is angry.

- (a) Leo stomped his foot and crossed his arms.
- (b) Leo was angry.
- (c) Leo was really mad.

Show, Don't Tell

Grade 3

2. Show it!

Rewrite each telling sentence so it shows.

1. Ava was nervous.

2. The room was messy.

3. Ben was happy.

4. The soup was hot.

5. The puppy was hungry.

Answer Key

Show, Don't Tell · Grade 3

1. Which sentence shows?

1. Show that someone is excited.

- a. Mia was excited.
- **b. Mia bounced on her toes and squealed.**
- c. Mia felt very excited.

2. Show that someone is tired.

- **a. Dad yawned and rubbed his eyes.**
- b. Dad was tired.
- c. Dad felt sleepy and tired.

3. Show that it is cold.

- a. It was very cold.
- b. It was freezing.
- **c. My teeth chattered and my fingers turned pink.**

4. Show that someone is angry.

- **a. Leo stomped his foot and crossed his arms.**
- b. Leo was angry.
- c. Leo was really mad.

2. Show it!

Answers will vary. These are examples.

1. Ava was nervous.
   Ava chewed her lip and twisted her sleeve.
2. The room was messy.
   Socks hung from the lamp, and toys covered every inch of the floor.
3. Ben was happy.
   Ben grinned from ear to ear and did a little dance.
4. The soup was hot.
   Steam rose from the bowl, and I blew on my spoon three times.
5. The puppy was hungry.
   The puppy whined, licked his lips and nudged his empty bowl.