

Name: _____

SHOW, DON'T TELL



Good writers don't just tell us what happens, they show us by using vivid descriptions and details to engage their readers. Let's look at an example from "The Blue Witch."

Read this passage from pages Chapter 7. Pay attention to the words that "show" instead of "tell".

"Abigail grimaced, then unscrewed the jar and dug her fingers into the slippery organs. Her stomach did a somersault. Witches weren't supposed to be affected by potion making, but sometimes she wanted to throw up. She quickly dropped them into the cauldron, then wiped her hands on her skirt.

The cauldron let out a high-pitched hissing noise and then blew up in her face, spraying beetle guts and shriek eyes everywhere.

Slimy trails of sneevil gook dripped from her hair. Beetle goo streaked her cheek."

Underline the details above that "show" what this scene was like instead of "tell".

Author Alane Adams used **sensory details** (slippery organs), **strong action verbs** (grimaced), and **figurative language** (her stomach did a somersault), to help keep our attention and keep us interested. This is how good writers keep their readers engaged.

Now it's your turn! Transform these "telling" sentences into "showing" sentences using sensory details, action verbs, or figurative language.

1. TELLING: "Endera was mean to Abigail."

SHOWING: _____

2. TELLING: "Hugo was scared in the dungeons."

SHOWING: _____
