

English

Creative Writing - Show, don't tell!

What do I do?



Complete the tasks below. Look at the tips on 'show, don't tell' and try to include it in some of your writing!

Top Tips!



- Take time to plan your work
- Read the question. If the question asks you to include certain points, make a note of them in your plan and remember to include them.
- Try to imagine that you are in the scene or situation that you are writing about.

Examples

Show, don't tell

You may have heard of '**show, don't tell**' before and it is exactly what the title suggests. You need to try to *show* how your character is feeling by what they do, rather than *tell* your reader outright.



It was winter and Max was cold.



Crystal icicles hung from bare branches and Max left imprints in the glistening white carpet beneath his feet. His breath was visible and he shivered as pulled his coat tighter around him.

Starter

Change the following 'tell' sentences into 'show' sentences by using your setting and the actions of your characters.

1. It was dark and Milly was tired.

2. It was cloudy and Jack could see aeroplanes in the sky.

3. Victoria was excited, the sun had come out.

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Activity

Create a 'show' sentence about each of the following characters. Try to *explain* the actions of the character to *show* how they feel.



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Answers

Starter

Responses will differ for both activities. Here are a few examples:

1. It was dark and Milly was tired.

The moon hung gracefully in the inky sky as Milly rubbed her eyes and let out an enormous yawn.

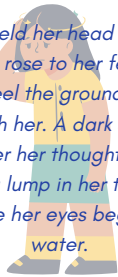
2. It was cloudy and Jack could see aeroplanes in the sky.

A trail of fluffy white lines criss-crossed their way through the grey, fleecy sky. Jack saw a tiny speck, slowly creeping its way across from left to right.

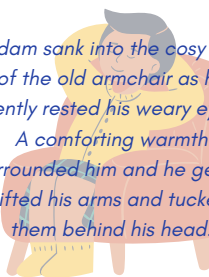
3. Victoria was excited, the sun had come out.

Jumping into the air, hands clasped together - Victoria ran as fast as she could into the back garden. The light beamed down onto her smiling face and she soaked in the golden rays.

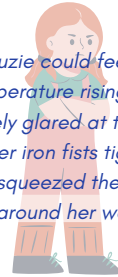
Amira held her head and she steadily rose to her feet. She could feel the ground uneasy beneath her. A dark shadow cast over her thoughts as she felt a lump in her throat before her eyes began to water.



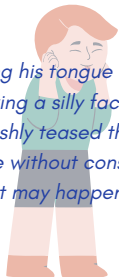
Adam sank into the cosy lap of the old armchair as he gently rested his weary eyes. A comforting warmth surrounded him and he gently lifted his arms and tucked them behind his head.



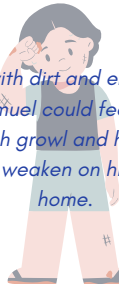
Suzie could feel her temperature rising as she fiercely glared at the young boy. Her iron fists tightened as she squeezed them firmly around her waist.



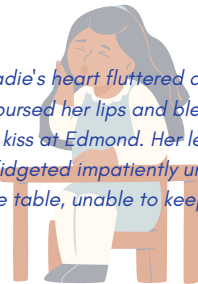
Poking his tongue out and making a silly face, Tom foolishly teased the furry feline without considering what may happen next!



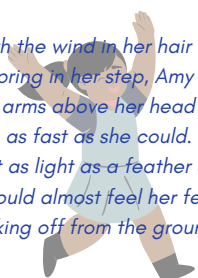
Black with dirt and engine oil, Samuel could feel his stomach growl and his weary legs weaken on his way home.



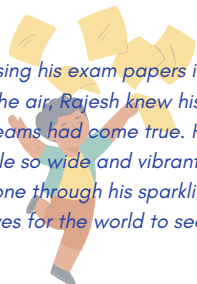
Sadie's heart fluttered as she pursed her lips and blew a kiss at Edmond. Her legs fidgeted impatiently under the table, unable to keep still.



With the wind in her hair and a spring in her step, Amy flung her arms above her head and ran as fast as she could. She felt as light as a feather and could almost feel her feet taking off from the ground.



Tossing his exam papers into the air, Rajesh knew his dreams had come true. His smile so wide and vibrant, it shone through his sparkling eyes for the world to see.



Clutching both legs with her trembling arms and sat huddled on the floor, Grace wanted the world to stop. She could feel the weight of worry on her shoulders and felt her breath shorten as she imagined what might happen.

