

Telling vs. Showing

Telling: simply stating something from a story
Showing: use descriptive details and precise verbs to create a vivid picture in the reader's mind.

Part 1 - Teacher Performances

Performance 1: Telling Nervous	Performance 2: Showing Nervous
What do you notice? What is your teacher feeling? How do you know?	What do you notice? What is your teacher feeling? How do you know?

Identify one precise verb from your list of observations: _____

Part 2 - Practice Details

Write down three things you might see that SHOW: Ms. Jarrett is nervous.

ran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bolted • darted • hurried • scampered • raced 	covered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buried • masked • concealed • veiled • wrapped 	broke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cracked • shattered • smashed • fractured • crushed 	found <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uncovered • located • recovered • spotted • unearthed
gave <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • awarded • contributed • granted • supplied • bestowed 	held <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clasped • clenched • clutched • gripped • grasped 	pulled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dragged • hauled • heaved • yanked • tugged 	threw <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chucked • flung • hurled • launched • catapulted

Part 3 - Practice Showing

Read each telling situation. Then rewrite the situation by SHOWING, using details to describe exactly what you might see to make the situation really come to life. Get creative!

1. John was angry.

2. Lisa was very confused about her homework.

3. Tatiana felt frustrated with her friend.

4. Anne was proud of her team after they won the game.
