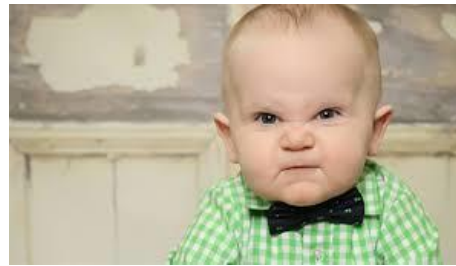Name: _____   Date: _____
7 - __

Show! Don't Tell!

There are powerful ways to help your reader understand what you want to say. Using dialogue, action words and descriptive language you can help your reader SEE, SMELL, FEEL, HEAR, or TASTE what you are remembering or imagining!

Example of Telling: The little boy was angry.

Can we be more descriptive? How can we show that he is angry?

Examples of Showing:

- Show through **dialogue**:

  "I don't like beans!" the boy sputtered through clenched teeth.

- Show through **action words**:

  He angrily threw his plate on the floor splattering green beans all over the family dog and his sister's socks.

- Show through **imagery (descriptive language):**

  A vein began to bulge out of his forehead. The color of his face turned purple. The bitter aftertaste of green beans in his mouth caused him to grimace and clench his teeth tightly. His little clenched fists hit the table like a hammer right before the plastic plate clattered to the linoleum floor below.

SECTION 1: Rewrite the following sentences using <u>dialogue</u> in order to "show" rather than "tell". Use your imagination.

1. Sammy was hungry. (Try and not use the word "hungry"!)

2. Ella was curious about what was in the bag.

SECTION 2: Rewrite the following sentences using <u>action words</u> in order to "show" rather than "tell".

1. Tom was embarrassed.

2. Our dog Willow was exhausted.

SECTION 3: Rewrite the following sentences using <u>descriptive language</u> in order to "show" rather than "tell".

1. The students were playing around during class.

2. He was bored while she was telling her story.