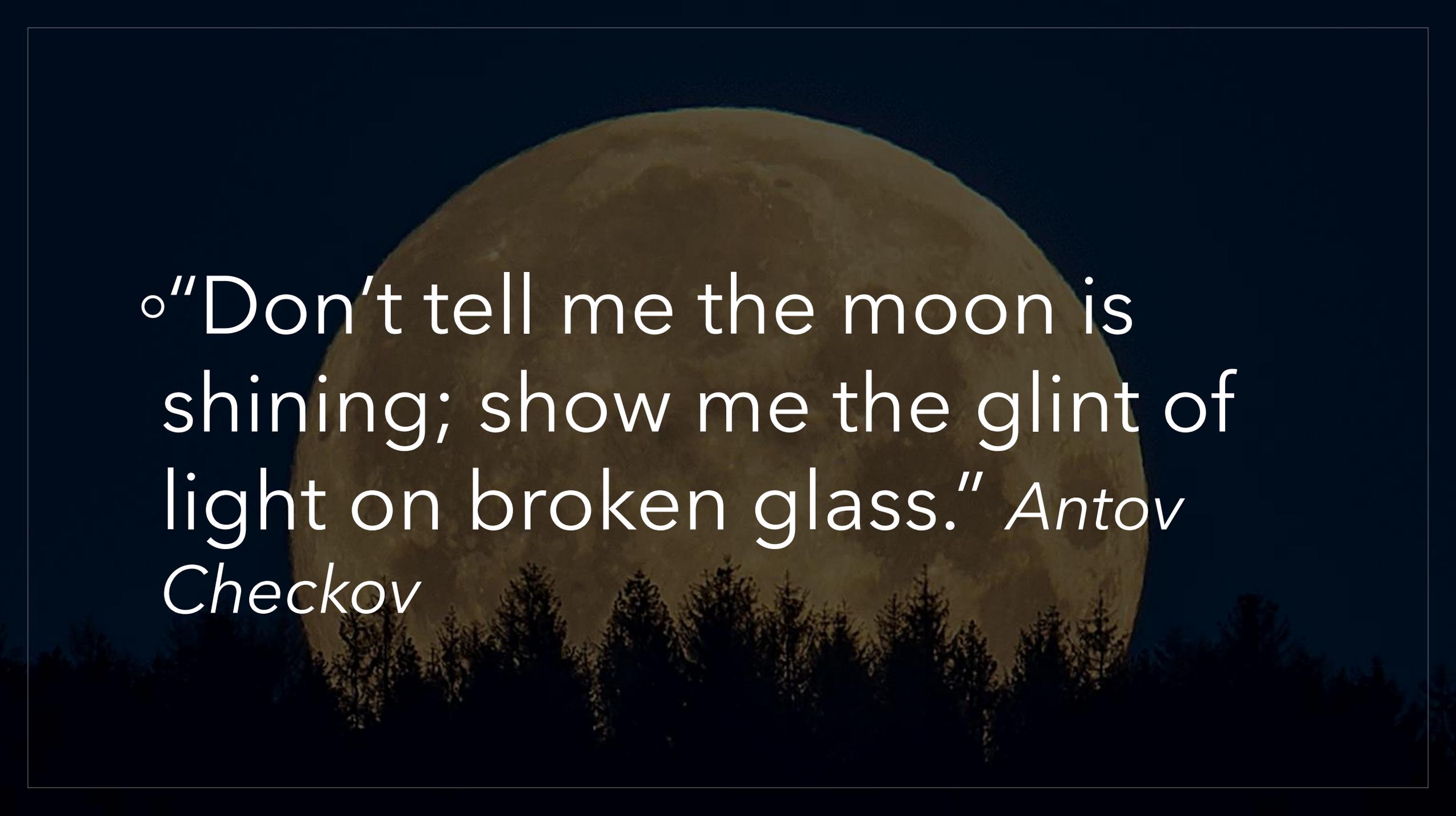
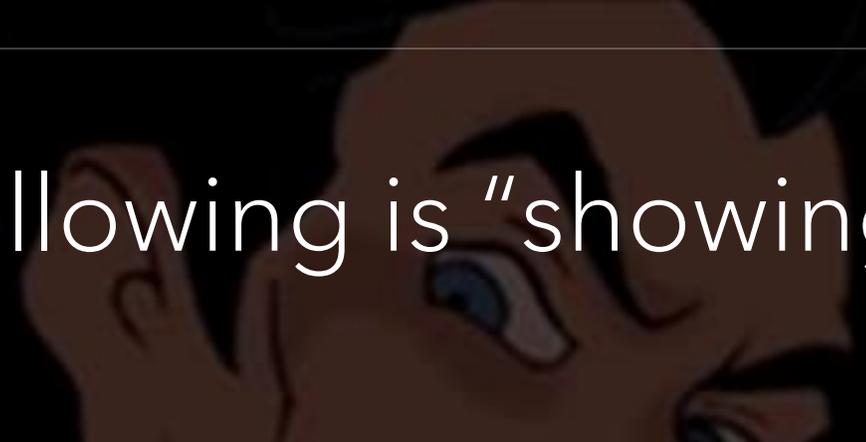




SHOWING, NOT  
TELLING A STORY



◦ "Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass." *Anton Chekov*

A cartoon illustration of a man's face, showing a wide-eyed, shocked expression with his hands raised to his face. The background is dark, and the man's skin is a light brown color.

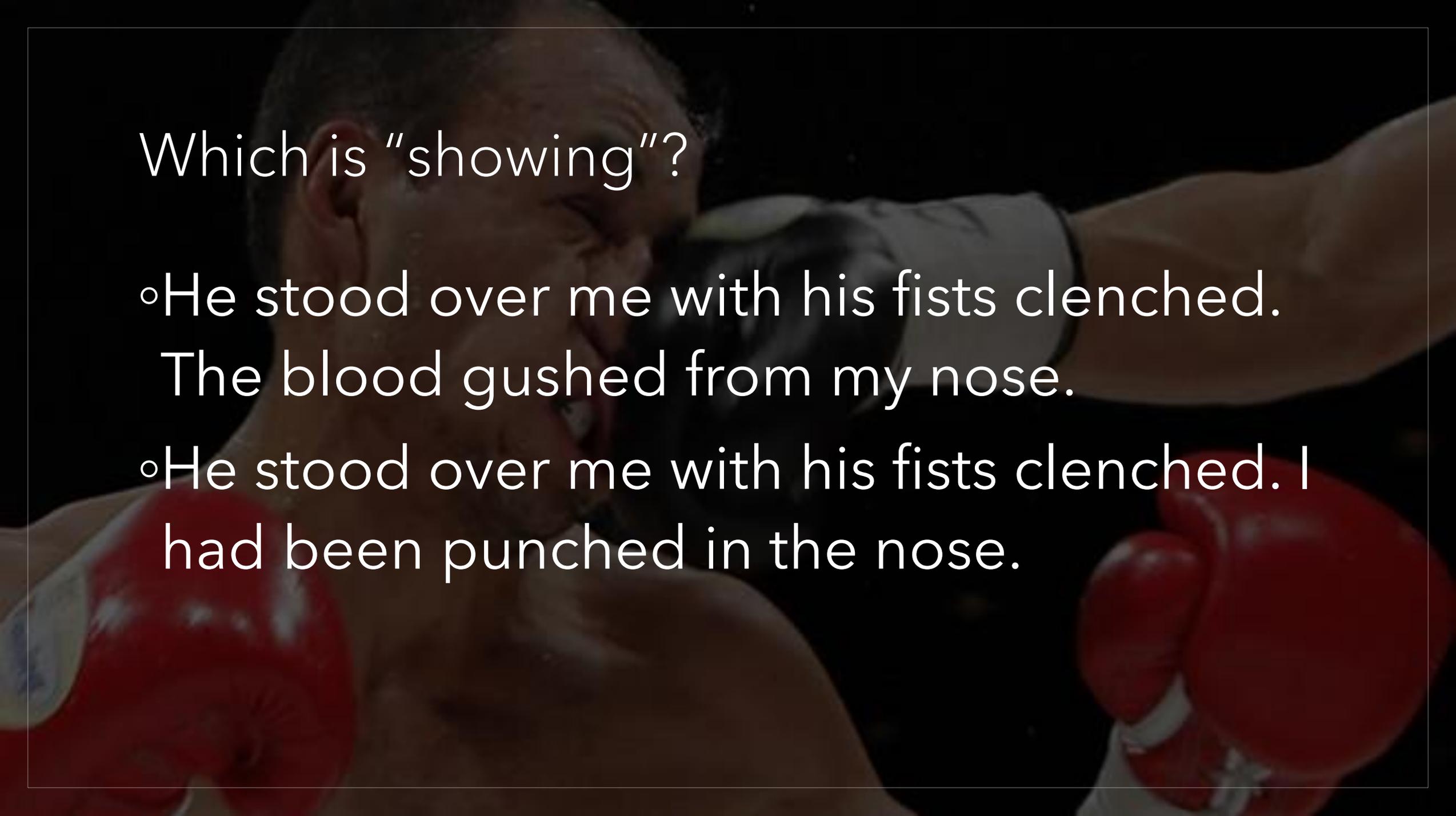
Which of the following is "showing", not telling?

I hate my boyfriend.

My hands clenched, and I felt my face go hot. As Fred sauntered by, I heard his hideous laugh echoing down the halls.

Which of the following is "showing", not telling?

- My head swiveled to the source of the grating noise as I tried to calm my shaking. I don't think my eyes could have been wider.
- I was scared.

A close-up photograph of a boxing match. A boxer in red gloves is being punched in the nose by an opponent in white gloves. The boxer's face is in pain, and his eyes are closed. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the action.

Which is "showing"?

◦He stood over me with his fists clenched.  
The blood gushed from my nose.

◦He stood over me with his fists clenched. I  
had been punched in the nose.



WHY WOULD "SHOWING"  
BE BETTER THAN  
"TELLING" IN WRITING?

What does  
showing, not  
telling mean?

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Show don't tell describes writing in various forms with an emphasis on **using and showing actions in order to convey the emotions** you want readers to **interpret**, which creates a better experience for readers, instead of writing exposition to tell what happened.

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By showing the actions and relationships and feelings instead of just telling the reader what happened, the writing comes off **deeper**, and more **meaningful**. This creates a much deeper **connection** and brings readers closer to you (or the main character).

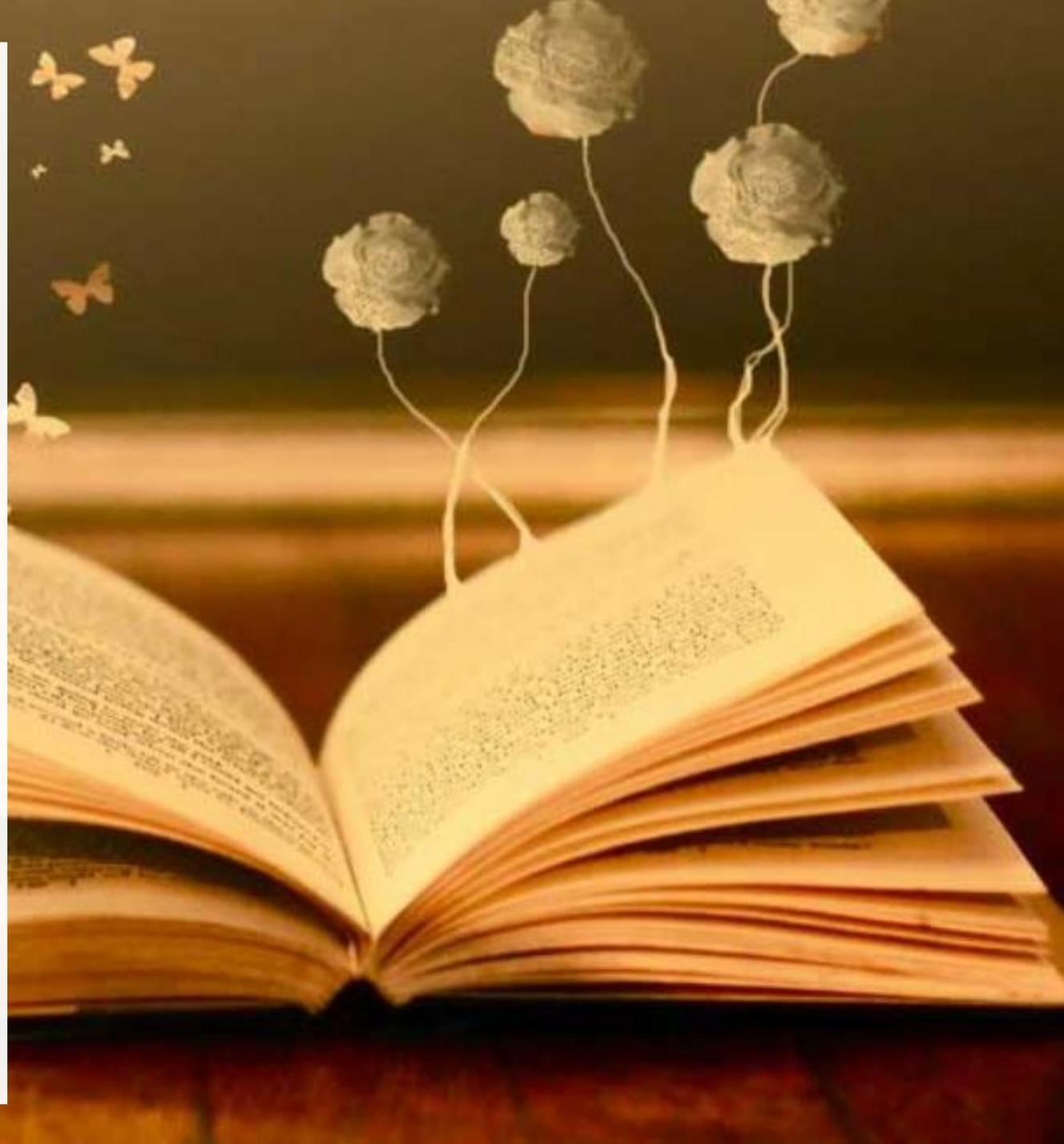
# Sensory Details

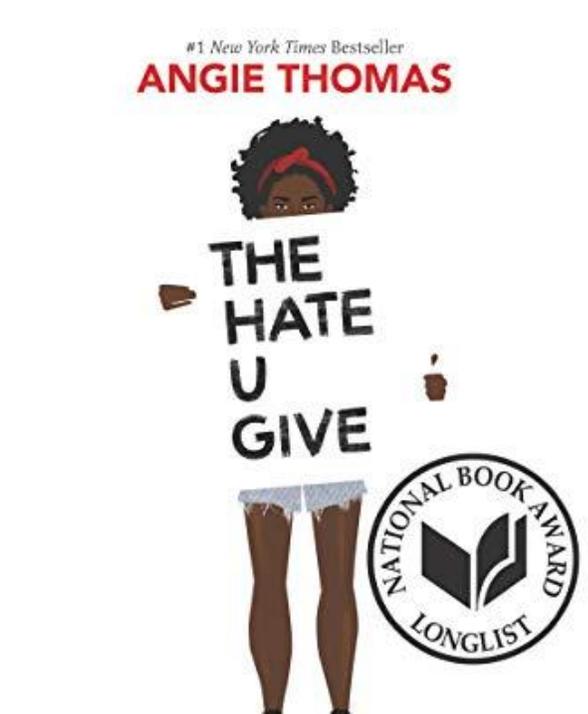
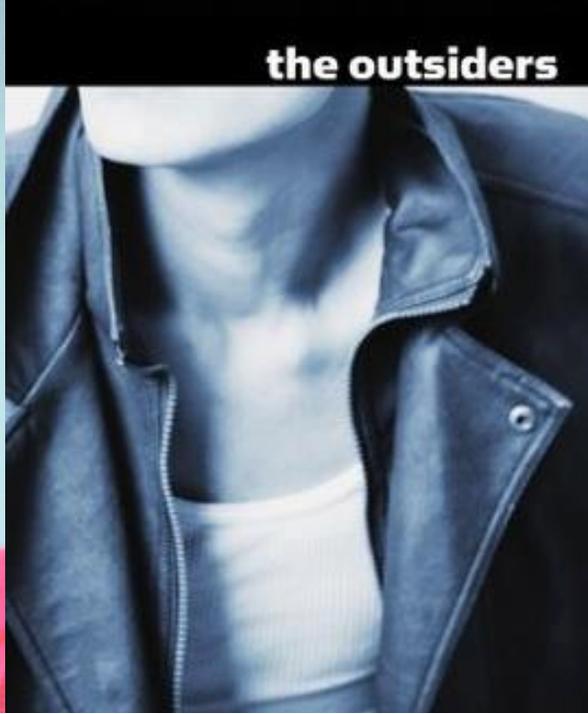
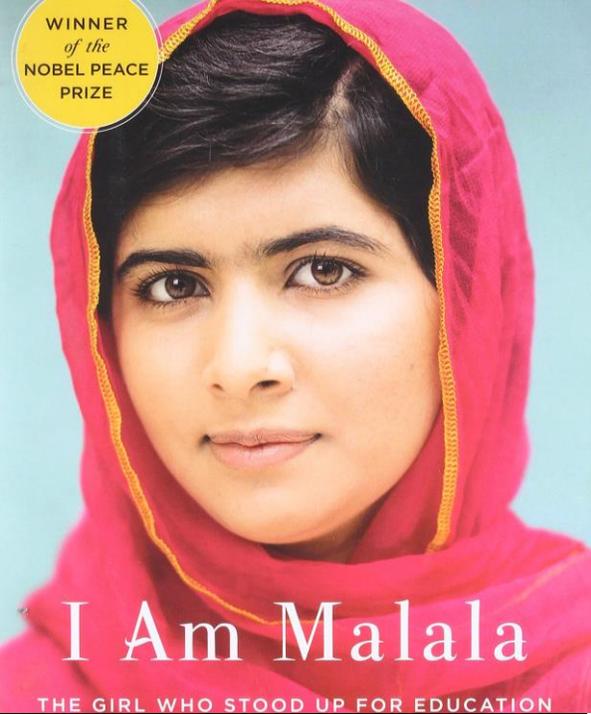
- Use sensory details to show your writing.
- What is the smell? Taste? Feel? What do you see or hear?
- Strong adjectives, verbs and nouns is key



# Why?

- To hook the reader
- Establish an emotional connection
- Build sophistication
- Go beyond simplistic writing
- Create inference
- Allow reader interpretation





## Beyond the words

- You can “show” not tell through sensory details and word choices, but you can also “show” who you are through a variety of genres. Maybe there is one narrative in your life that shows who you are as a person. Or maybe it is an image, or a song, or a book. How can you “show” me who you are.

# Assignment: Get to know you through showing, not telling

- In a one-two page write up, I would like you to “show” yourself. It should be through either narrative or descriptive writing and may or may not be anchored in an image, a poem, a song, a book...
- **Criteria:**
- Reduce the exposition. No “telling” who you are. (eg. I am a 5’9 beast of a boy who loves to play competitive checkers)
- Grammatically correct (this is not always a criteria, but it is for this assignment)
- Minimum 1 page *double spaced* -maximum 2 pages.
- A short reflective paragraph explaining your intent (what are you trying to “show” me about yourself?)
- Images are optional
- Assessment: completion marks and my first impression of you 😊

## Other resources

- [Self Publishing School](#) website
- [Self Publishing](#) (video)
- [Learn English with Benjamin](#) (video)