

Y3 Narrative Writing

KS2 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Turn 'telling' into 'showing': 'Sam was excited.'

Step 1 · What does an excited person do?

bounces, grins, talks fast, cannot sit still

Step 2 · Write those actions instead of the feeling

Sam bounced on his toes, grinning from ear to ear.

Answer: Sam bounced on his toes, grinning from ear to ear.

Check: The word 'excited' is not used, but the reader can tell.

2. Now try one with the steps

Describe a setting using the senses: a school playground at lunchtime

Step 1 · See and hear

Step 2 · Smell or feel

Step 3 · Put it together

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. Which of these is 'showing' rather than 'telling'? A) She was nervous. B) Her hands trembled reached for the door handle.

2. Rewrite this 'telling' sentence 'showing' sentence: 'He was angry.'

3. Name the five stages of a story mountain in the correct order.

4. Which type of story opening is this? 'Rain hammered the windows pressed her face against the cold glass, searching the dark street below.'

5. Replace the weak verb 'said' with a stronger alternative: 'You never listen to me!' she said.

6. What is the setting of a story?

7. What is the plot of a story?

8. Write a 'showing' sentence for: 'The dog was happy.'

9. Name one thing you can hear and one thing you can smell in a bakery.

10. Write a strong opening sentence for a story set in a dark forest. Use either description, action or speech — not all three.

11. Describe a spooky castle setting in one sentence using two senses.

12. Write two sentences introducing a brave character called Kiran. Show the bravery with an action.

13. Why should a story have a problem?

14. Write a good ending for a story where a lost puppy is found.

4. Before you hand it in

She felt very scared. She was really, really frightened.

She froze in the doorway, her heart hammering so loudly she was sure the whole corridor could hear it.

Ending with 'And then I woke up and it was all a dream.'

Solve the problem in the story: how do the characters fix it?

Describing a character with a long list: 'She had brown hair, blue eyes, a red top, jeans, trainers...'

Pick one or two details that tell us something about the character.

Using 'said' after every line of speech, or never using it.

Use said most of the time and a stronger verb when it matters (whispered, snapped).