



**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

Students will begin by distinguishing the difference between showing and telling. A definition and examples are provided on the Show NOT Tell worksheet

- Step 1:** Read *That's Not My Name* by Anoosha Syed to the class.
- Step 2:** Have students complete the Show NOT Tell worksheet.
- Step 3:** Students can share as a class or in a group their new examples of showing vs. telling from the worksheet. If students have written a narrative in class, let them apply this activity to a telling sentence in their narrative.
- Step 4:** The students should rewrite it and add the new showing sentence(s) to their story.

## Show NOT Tell

Showing is when a writing uses description and action so the reader can visually experience the story. It helps the reader form a picture in their head. Telling is when the writer merely informs the reader.

Telling	Showing
She was angry.	When she arrived at the bus stop, she hurled her backpack on to the ground and snapped at her friend. The bus arrived and she shoved everyone who was in the way aside.

Directions: Using the quotes from *That's Not My Name* by Anoosha Syed, explain what the author is telling.

Quote	What is this quote telling?
"In the morning, Baba made her favorite breakfast, Mama kissed Mirha's forehead, and Nani waved them goodbye."	
"They stretched out the 'i' until it sounded like an 'e,' and their 'r' sounded wrong. Some people even forgot the 'h.'	
"If people can remember names like Beethoven and Tchaikovsky and Michaelangelo, they can remember Mirha!"	
"Mirha kept Mama's words close to her when she went back to school the next day."	

It's your turn. Can you turn these into showing examples?

They were scared.	
The house was haunted.	
She is smart.	