

That's Not My Name

Written by Anoosha Syed

Viking Books for Young Readers 978-0-593-40517-8 | Hardcover 40 pages | \$17.99 | Lexile: AD530L



OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

That's Not My Name by Anoosha Syed is about a young girl named Mirha who learns to be proud of her name. On the first day of school, Mirha introduces herself to the class, and the students struggle to say her name correctly. By the end of the story, Mirha learns to find her voice, speak up for herself, and celebrate her name. In this lesson, students will examine the author's writing style and use "show don't tell" in their writing by exploring Mirha's story and becoming empowered by her mama's advice.

LEARNING TARGETS

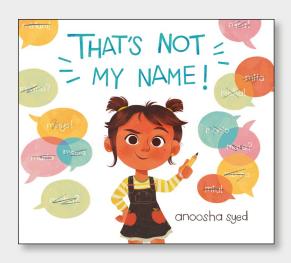
- 1. Students will be able to determine the difference between showing vs. telling.
- 2. Students will identify the telling in a short story.
- 3. Students will compose an example of showing in their writing.
- 4. Students will revise a sentence in their own writing.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- That's Not My Name by Anoosha Syed
- Show NOT Tell worksheet

Finding Your Place in the World:

Lessons for Reading and Writing



SUMMARY

Mirha is so excited for her first day of school. She can't wait to learn, play, and make new friends. But when her classmates mispronounce her name, she goes home wondering if she should find a new one. Maybe then she'd be able to find a monogrammed keychain at the gas station or order a hot chocolate at the cafe more easily.

Mama helps Mirha to see how special her name is, and she returns to school the next day determined to help her classmates say it correctly —even if it takes a hundred tries.

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.	



