

Show don't tell examples

Tell	Show	Strategy
Sean didn't care about anyone else, so it wasn't surprising that he didn't stop to help Thomas.	Sean, who was stone cold, walked by Thomas unflinching, his gaze fixed on the path ahead.	Metaphor 'stone cold' - indicates Sean does not have any emotion. Describes his manner, indicating that he doesn't care.
This encounter with Seth had shown him that he judged him wrong. That while he had thought of him as selfish, he actually did consider others quite a lot. He learnt a lesson about judging others before he really knew them.	This encounter with Seth had reminded him never to judge a book by its cover.	Idiom 'never judge a book by its cover' indicates that narrator has misjudged Seth. Implied meaning - use of this idiom implies that the narrator knows he made a mistake and should change his behaviour; it does not need to be explained.
As Jamie walked past, the worry returned. I feared that she would return to taunt me yet again.	As Jamie walked past I froze. She was as cold as ice and fear of what she may do next overwhelmed her surroundings.	Simile 'cold as ice' indicates that Jamie is not considerate of others; that she doesn't show much emotion. Description of Jamie's impact on her surroundings implies that the reason the narrator froze is that she also fears her and has had prior negative encounters.
He could see mountains in the distance and felt intimidated by them.	Neck arched and eyes skyward, his sense of self disappeared under the scowl of the towering mountains.	Personification of the mountains "scowl" illustrates how the character feels about his surroundings. Description of the surroundings illustrates the impact on the character and creates the sense of foreboding he felt.
The forest was the darkest place she had ever seen. Only small patches of light made their way through the trees. The ground was uneven, with exposed roots from the surrounding trees everywhere.	Intermittent patches of moonlight penetrated through the trees as though fighting to prevent the darkness from taking control. As she stepped back into the light her surroundings were once again exposed, the roots of the trees swirling around her, the veins of the forest.	Personification of moonlight as fighting against the darkness reflects that the character is just managing to keep herself from becoming lost in the dark surroundings of the forest. Metaphor 'the veins of the forest' indicates that there are vast amounts of exposed roots that appear to be connecting all parts of the forest.