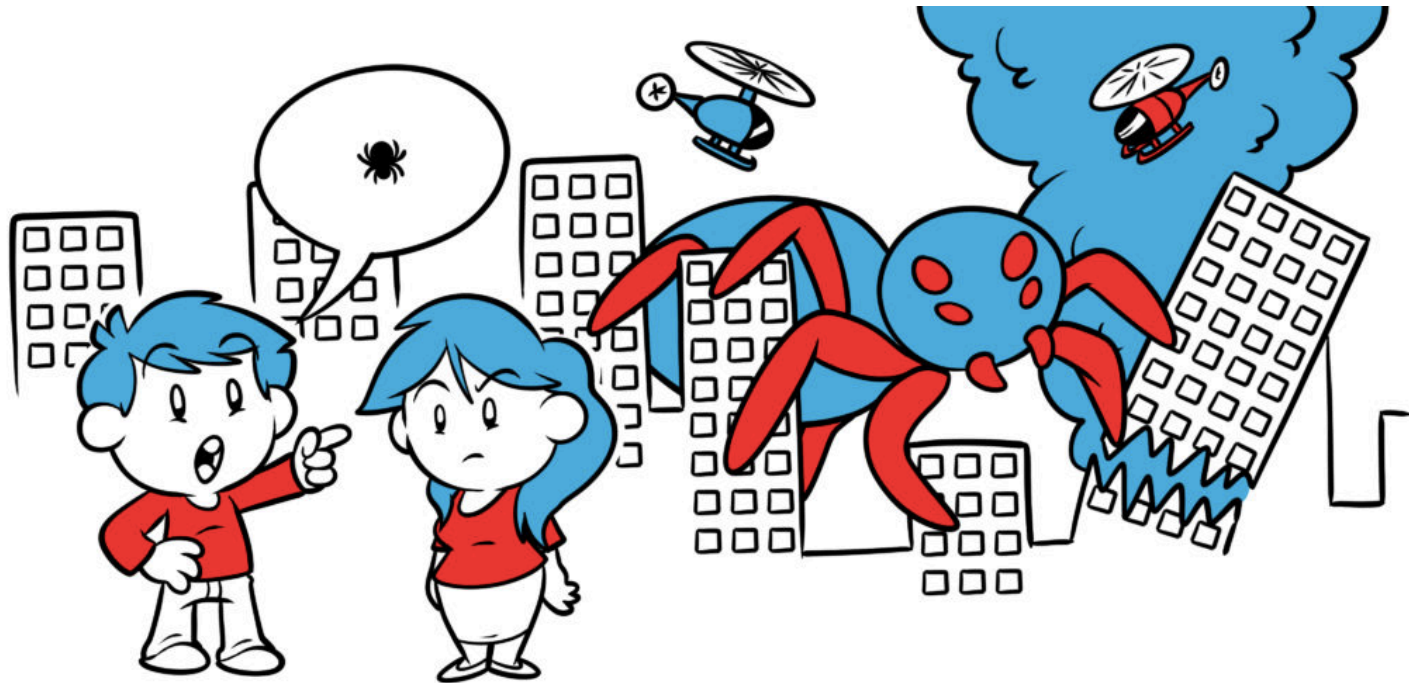# Show, Don't Tell!

This is, perhaps, the single most important technique when it comes to writing creatively.

Show, Don't Tell!

Like the name suggests; this is the art of showing your reader something rather than simply telling them the information.

Show, Don't Tell!

You do this by using actions, thoughts, feelings and relationships to inform the reader about what is happening.

Show, Don't Tell!

This creates a much deeper connection and brings readers closer to you (or the main character). It creates empathy and invests the reader.

Show, Don't Tell!

It is much easier to understand this technique by being shown it (rather than just being told)...

Show, Don't Tell!

Tell:

"I heard footsteps creeping behind me and it made the whole situation scarier."

Show, Don't Tell!

Show:

"Crunching hit my ears from behind, accelerating the already rampant pounding of my heart."

Show, Don't Tell!

In this example the information of the 'scary' atmosphere is expressed in a way the reader can experience.
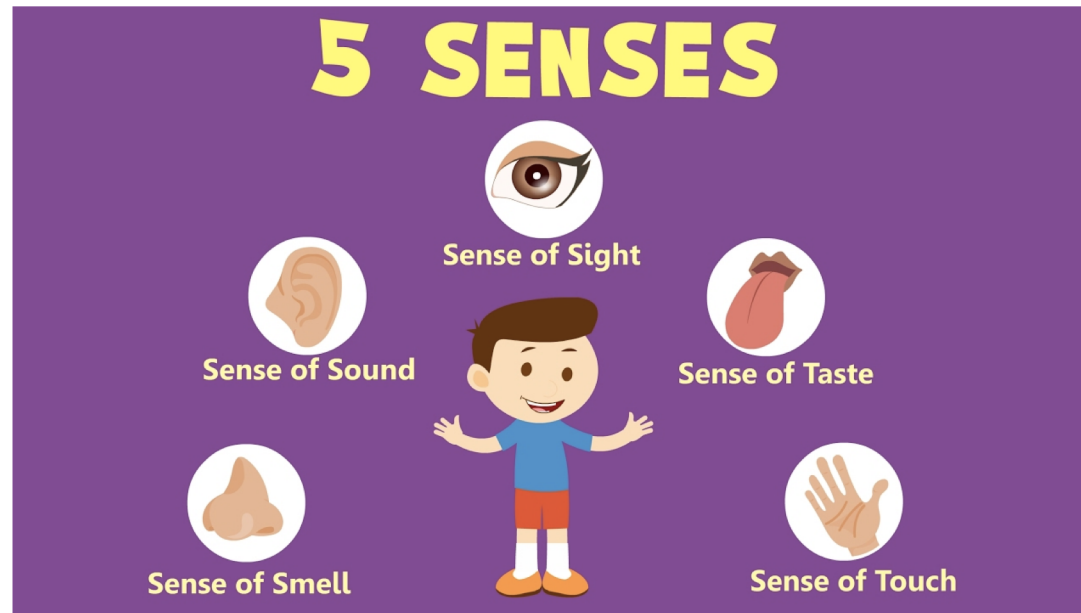
Show, Don't Tell!

This allows the reader to feel what the character is feeling. surprise and the sense of urgency, the fear.

Show, Don't Tell!

Appealing to the reader's 5 senses is a quick way to start showing them your scene.

Show, Don't Tell!

Describing the smell, taste, feel, sound and sight of something allows your reader to truly picture something.

Show, Don't Tell!

An example:

Tell:

The man was angry.

Show, Don't Tell!

Show:

Scraping sounds escaped his lips as he clenched his jaw, grinding his teeth. He swallowed his words with the venomous bile that had invaded his throat. Beneath his shirt, his chest rose and fell rapidly as his breathing sped up. His body shook as he fought against his desire to scream.