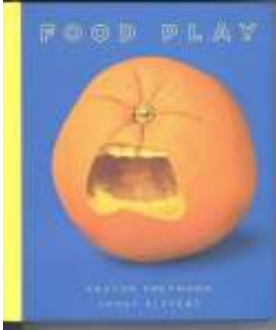


Writing Trait: IDEAS

Learning Intention: Students will turn their simple, generic statements into rich quick-writes loaded with descriptive details that capture the reader's attention.



by S. Freymann and
J. Elffers

Before Reading:

Learning Outcomes: A4, A5, A6, B5, C3, C4

Have students turn to a partner and predict what the book will be about by looking at the illustration on the front cover and by reading the title.

Have students turn and talk to a partner getting them to describe the emotion that this image suggests. Ask students to describe the evidence they see that conveys this message (see list below ... flaring tonsils etc).

During Reading:

Learning Outcomes: A9, B6

Select a variety of pages that convey a mad emotion. As each picture is shown, have students turn and talk to a partner about the evidence they see that conveys anger.

After Reading:

Learning Outcomes: A5, B7, C3, C4,

Create a show, don't tell chart that turns a boring statement like, He was mad, into something filled with details. Why? Because readers crave details!

example:

Telling (boring)	Show (has lots of details)
He/she was mad.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• flaring tonsils,• mouth wide open,• eyes closed tightly,• wrinkled brow,• scrunched up nose

Have students turn their detailed notes into a quick write. e.g.

Watch out! He's mad! With his wide open mouth I could see his tonsils flaring. Eyes? What eyes? They were closed so tight, they were no longer visible. Was he 85 or 8? With that wrinkled brow, who could tell. **Move aside, I'm out of here!**



Our Learning Intention:

I can add details so my reader
can visualize.

As this lesson is taught, share the target, **in blue**, on this student-friendly rubric with students.

"Learning targets must be transformed into student-friendly versions that teachers can share with their students (and parents) from the very beginning of the learning."

Chappuis, Commodore and Stiggins, 2010, from *Assessment Balance and Quality*

Writing Traits	A Start	Getting There	That's It	Wow
Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> try to zoom in on a topic needs more details; please add them make sure ideas are clear and match your topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> topic is a little zoomed in has a few details about topic; needs a few more thoughtful ideas in parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> topic is zoomed in interesting details that fit the topic clear, thoughtful ideas throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> topic is really focused juicy details and examples carry the topic forward has a unique, crystal clear message
Word Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> try to add a few interesting words try to add a few poetic words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> words are used correctly; try to add some spice to words an attempt at poetry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> interesting, varied word choices sprinkled throughout a bit of poetry adds interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rich, precise word choices clever use of poetry
Sentence Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> make sure sentences are complete begin each sentence with different words add a mixture of short, medium and long sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a few errors in sentences need fixing sentences begin in different ways with basic vocabulary one or two sentences are of different lengths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> some errors, but only in more complex sentences sentence beginnings are different with some interesting word choices a mixture of short, medium and long sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> complex sentences are almost error free a variety of clever sentence beginnings that fit perfectly sentences of different lengths and type that create flow
Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> add some of your personality show that you care for topic think about your reader and what they would like 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows a glimmer of personality some evidence of care for topic thought for the reader in parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> personality shows care for topic carefully chosen words and details to engage the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contains personality that shines shows passion for topic shows clear understanding of what readers crave
Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> beginning middle End flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> try to add a beginning that your reader will like make sure all ideas are in order and relate to your topic add an ending use different sentence connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a basic beginning; can you hook your reader a bit more? most ideas are related add a stronger ending bumpy connections, but meaning is still clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a clear beginning that sets the stage for the topic similar ideas are grouped together and develop logically a sudden ending provides a conclusion smooth connecting words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> beginning clearly establishes the topic; reader is engaged unique ideas in a logical sequence has an ending that satisfies a smooth, effective variety of connecting words
Conventions S.D. #71	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> please fix spelling, grammar and punctuation; so that all parts are easily understood add some paragraphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a few errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation need to be fixed evidence that show understanding of paragraphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a few errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation; meaning is still clear clear use of paragraphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the occasional error in spelling and punctuation in the tricky parts; meaning is clear paragraphs in all the right places

Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • try to zoom in on a topic • needs more details; please add them • make sure ideas are clear and match your topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • topic is a little zoomed in • has a few details about topic; needs a few more • thoughtful ideas in parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • topic is zoomed in • interesting details that fit the topic • clear, thoughtful ideas throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • topic is really focused • juicy details and examples carry the topic forward • has a unique, crystal clear message
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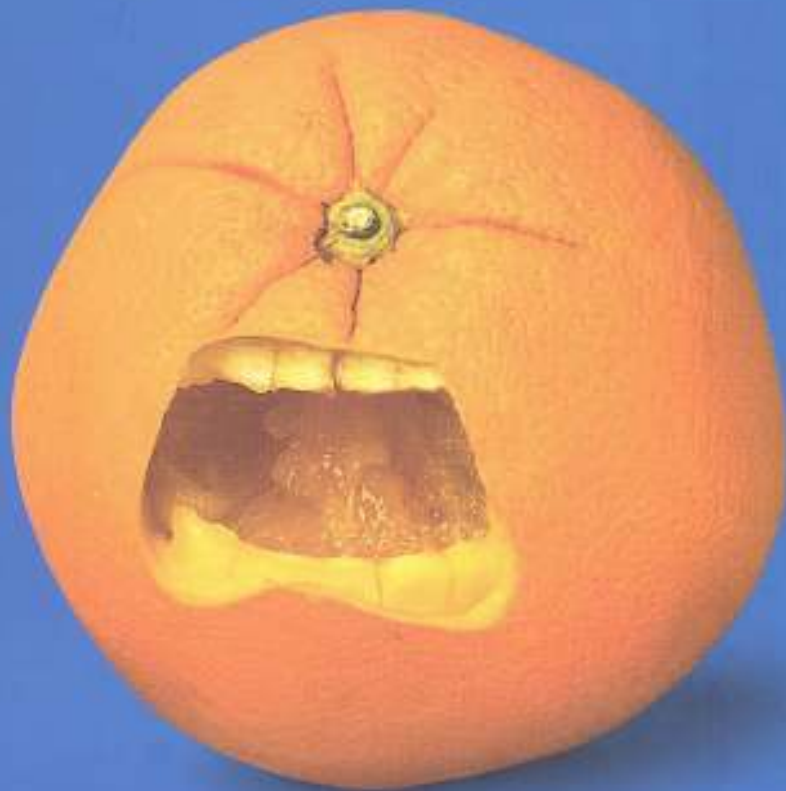
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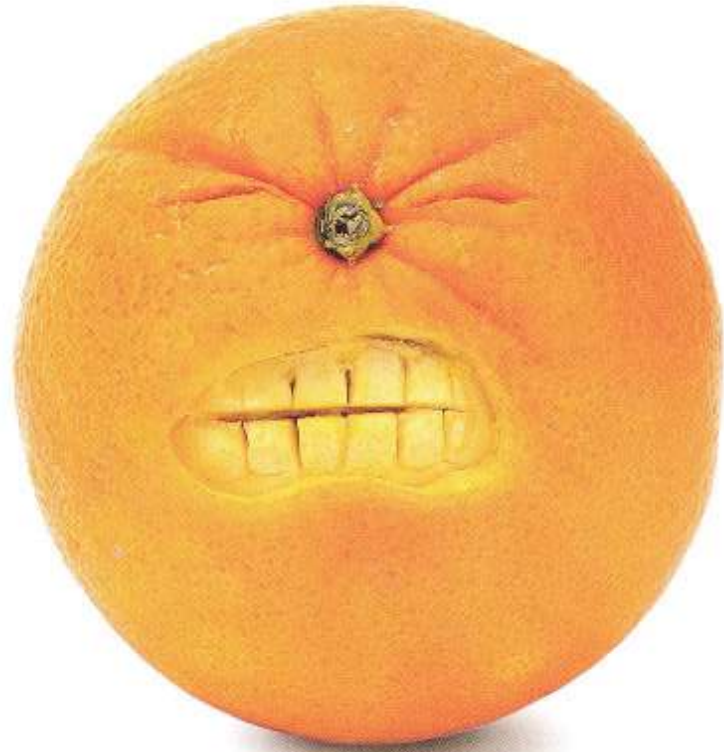
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<p style="text-align: center;">Tell (BORING)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A telling sentence doesn't have any interesting details.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Show (INTERESTING!)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Switch one boring sentence into lots of descriptive ones.</p>

FOOD PLAY



SAXTON FREYMAN
JOOST ELFFERS



<p style="text-align: center;">Tell (boring—my reader <u>cannot</u> visualize)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Show (interesting—my reader <u>can</u> visualize)</p>
<p>He was mad.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • puckered mouth • narrow eyes like slits • grinding teeth • clenched jaw • face turned red

I shouldn't have said that. From the moment I uttered those words, I could see his reaction. His mouth puckered and his eyes became narrow slits. Grinding teeth and a clenched jaw told me everything I needed to know. I had gone too far. As his face turned red, I knew he was about to start shouting. "I'm sorry!" I blurted out before he had a chance to continue. He must have realized I meant it, because his stiff posture started to relax. **Choose your words carefully. That's my advice!**

<p style="text-align: center;">Tell (boring—my reader <u>cannot</u> visualize)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Show (interesting—my reader <u>can</u> visualize)</p>
<p>He was mad.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wrinkled brow • red face • trembling body • shouting • flared tonsils

Run! He's about to explode! Within a second, his brow wrinkled and his face turned red. His whole body began to tremble. As he shouted, the room began to shake like there was a mini earthquake. How could one person make so much noise? With his mouth open wide, I could see his flared tonsils. **Time to go. Sure glad I can run fast!**

Show don't tell

Tell

His dad was angry

Show

stamped his foot, he shouted
his forehead was wrinkled, he
threw stuff, put his hands on
his hips, his face was red, he
bared his teeth

Uh oh! Mad Dad great title

↓
Don't leave
a space
here.

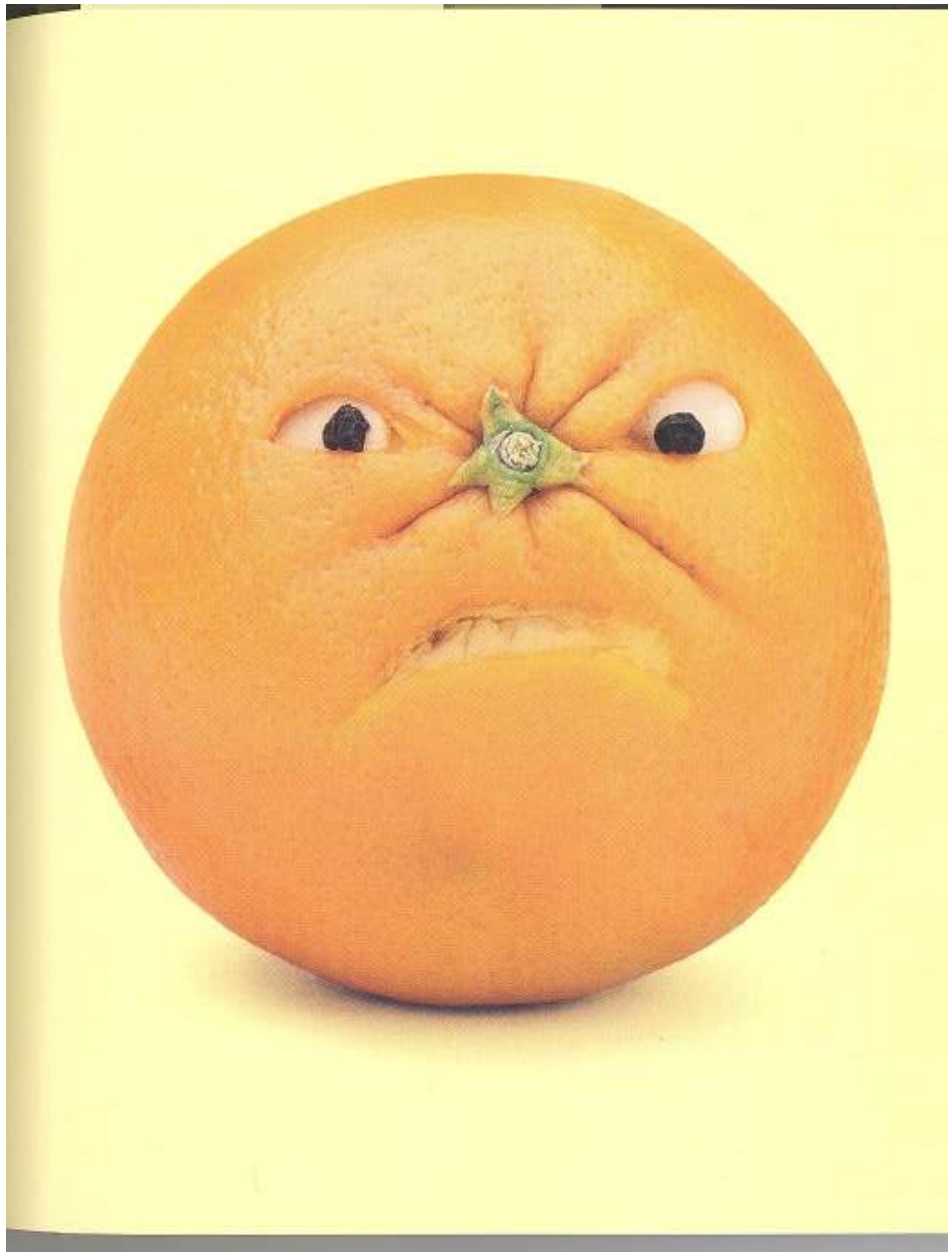
Today I encountered a very mad dad. His hands

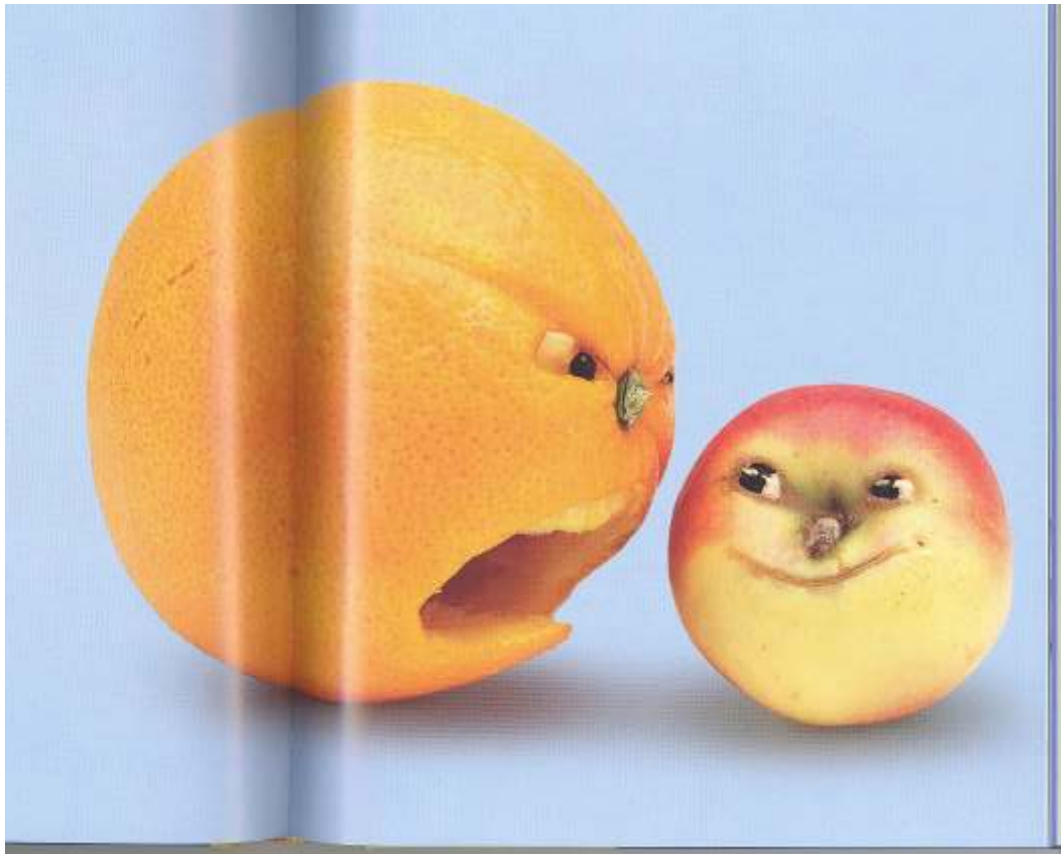
His hands were on his hips and his teeth were bared. The
dad's face was red as a ^{poetry} ripe tomato. He stomped his feet
and his forehead was wrinkled like a prune.

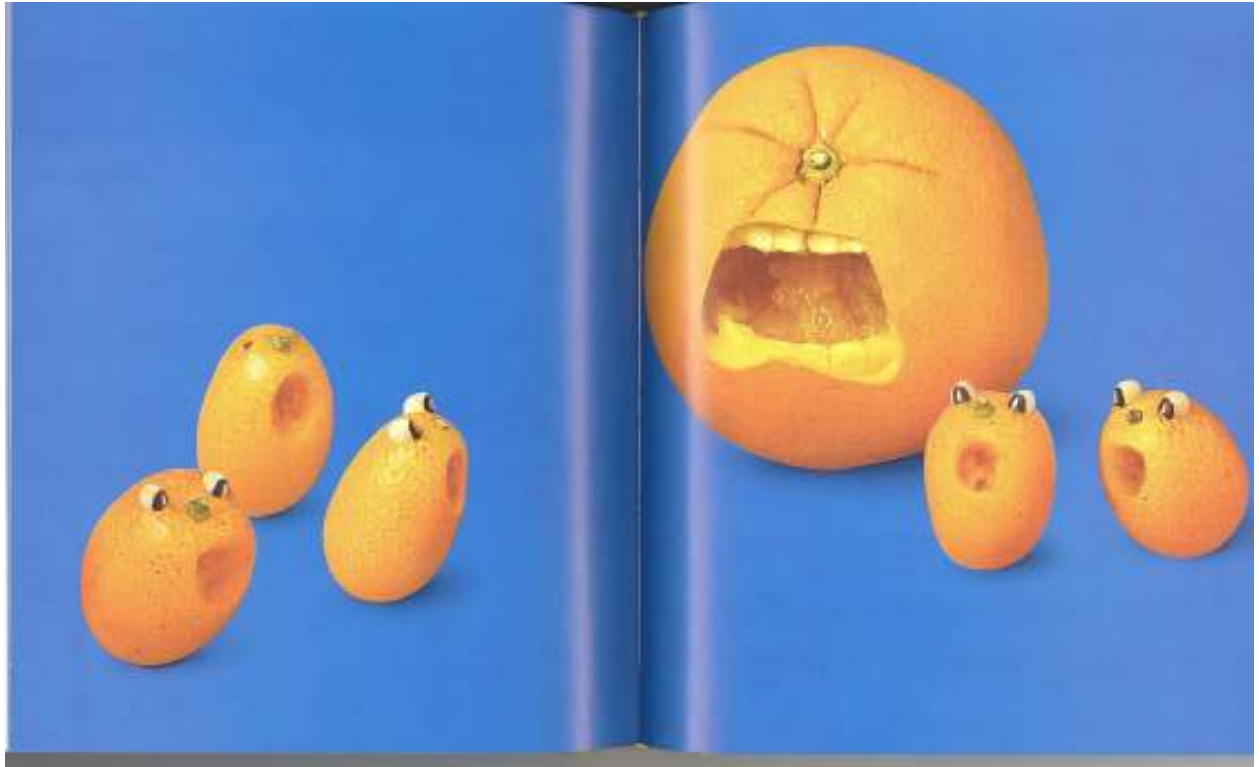
It was very loud, he shouted and threw things.

I decided I had two options, stay put and wait
for him to calm down or make a run for it. I went
with option number two and took off. I laughed out loud
when I read this. ^{best voice!}

I didn't stop running until the mad dad was
out of sight. That was a very mad dad.









Exit Slip

List two ways the Show, Don't Tell strategy helps to improve your writing:

1. _____
2. _____

What confuses you still?

1. _____

Exit Slip

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