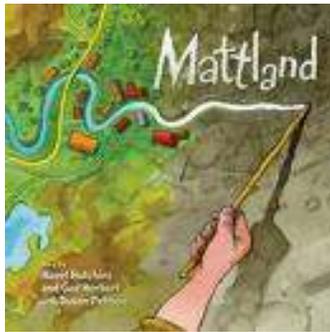


## Writing Trait: IDEAS



by H. Hutchins  
and  
G. Herbert

### Before Reading:

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.

Explain that authors use a technique called 'show, don't tell' to describe something in detail. This book is a fabulous example of just that.

### During Reading:

As the book is read aloud, listen for the ways in which this author uses showing details to describe the land created by the children.

### After Reading:

Create a show, don't tell chart and have students recall the ways in which the author describes the childrens' play.  
example:

<b>Telling</b> (boring)	<b>Show</b> (has lots of details)
Matt and the other children created a make believe land while they were playing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He connected the line to a puddle. The puddle was round in the middle and bumpy at the ends.</li><li>• He moved some rocks into a jagged row.</li><li>• A huge puddle became a far off ocean.</li><li>• He used a block of wood to smooth a winding ribbon down from the mountains.</li></ul>

Have students write about their own imaginary play. Have them write a telling/boring sentence on the graphic organizer on the next page, then expand their thinking by elaborating with lots of details.

<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>



What would you play here?

How would you play?

What would you use?

What would you do?

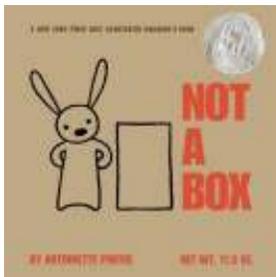
Would you have fun?

After filling out the Show, Don't Tell black line master, have students write a memoir about a time in which they used a lot of imagination when playing. Have them use the information they have on their Show, Don't Tell sheet to help their reader visualize.

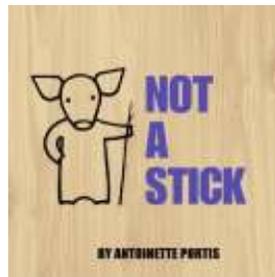
**Writing Extension:**

To further spur writers imagination look for these books:

Not a Box



Not a Stick



Final Reflection:

Ask students to write a reflection explaining how the Show, Don't Tell strategy helps to improve their writing. this may be written on an "Exit Slip" or in a writer's notebook.

**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

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

What confuses you still?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

### Exit Slip

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
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