Understanding Show, Don't Tell: (And Really Getting It) (Skill Builders Series Book 1)

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Understanding Show, Don't Tell: (And Really Getting It) (Skill Builders Series Book 1) Janice Hardy **Do you struggle with show, don't tell? You don't have to.**

Award-winning author Janice Hardy (and founder of the popular writing site, Fiction University) takes you deep into one of the most frustrating aspects of writing--showing, and not telling. She'll help you understand what show, don't tell means, teach you how to spot told prose in your writing, and reveal why common advice on how to fix it doesn't always work.

With in-depth analysis, *Understanding Show, Don't Tell (And Really Getting It)* looks at what affects told prose and when telling is the *right* thing to do. It also explores aspects of writing that aren't technically telling, but are connected to told prose and can make prose feel told, such as infodumps, description, and backstory.

Her easy-to-understand examples will show you clear before and after text and demonstrate how telling words change the prose. You'll learn how to find the right balance between description, narrative, and internalization for the strongest impact. These examples will also demonstrate why showing the *wrong* details can sound just as dull as telling.

This book will help you:

Understand when to tell and when to show
Spot common red flag words often found in told prose
Learn why one single rule doesn't apply to all books
Determine how much telling is acceptable in your writing
Fix stale or flat prose holding your writing back

Understanding Show, Don't Tell (And Really Getting It) is more than just advice on what to do and what not to do—it's a down and dirty examination and analysis of how show, don't tell works, so you can adapt the "rules" to whatever style or genre you're writing. By the end of this book, you'll have a solid understanding of show, don't tell and the ability to use it without fear or frustration.

Understanding Show, Don't Tell: (And Really Getting It) (Skill Builders Series Book 1) Details

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From Reader Review Understanding Show, Don't Tell: (And Really Getting It) (Skill Builders Series Book 1) for online ebook

G.H. Eckel says

It's rare to find a book that can actually make a difference in your writing. If you're an author, like me, you've read your fair share of how-to books. While all of them entertain good ideas, few if any have made a real impact on my writing.

Not so with Janice Hardy's book. It's secret is giving you a list of "red flag" words that you'll find in your writing that highlight all of the places you're Telling not Showing.

Like everyone else, I've been told to show not tell. Of course, that's what I was doing! Not! Armed with Hardy's list of words, I can see clearly now all of the times I'm telling. After reading this book, you'll see your writing with new eyes.

If you're an author, this is a must read.

Cecily Paterson says

Really helpful

This was the best treatment of this topic I've seen. I'll be recommending it to the writers I edit and coach.

Bill Tillman says

Don't publish without dogearing this book! This is a book to battle really mean villians, those TELLING WORDS. But a real cheat sheet at the back of the book would have been a great plus!

Melanie Hill says

This book is essential reading for all authors. I now really understand what showing and telling are and when to use them. I will read this book every year just to refresh and remind myself. I am looking forward to using the check list and the helpful descriptions to pick out the red flag words.

Ashley Stout says

So I originally gave this book a 3 star rating, but came back to give it a 5 star rating. Here's why:

I originally liked the book, and even though I only gave it 3 stars, I still was happy I bought it as a resource book. There are tons of great examples in the book and lists of words to look out for that might mean you are telling instead of showing. The main reason I originally gave it a 3 was because it was a struggle for me to get through the short 116 pages of this book due to how repetitive it was.

I came back to revise my rating because I started to reread my rough draft of a novel I finished, and WOW! Through the entire thing, I was able to instantly see where I did a great job with showing and ALL of the places where I was telling stood out like a sore thumb.

This is a GREAT book if you want to really help yourself in editing and revising- and I think the next time I write a rough draft of a novel, I will be better at showing on the first time around.

Highly recommend for any writers of fiction! :)

Dan says

Good book with good exemples. Nothing incredible, but useful.

B. Andersen says

When I got the book, I was concerned that it would be another collection of nebulous advice unconnected to the kind of writing I did. I couldn't have been more wrong. Hardy walks through example after example of how a passage being "told" can be converted into a more active, interesting, and energetic "show." Hooray for concrete examples! She uses keywords or trigger words to spot problematic text, and makes the very sensible suggestion that it is fine to have these "tell" snippets in early drafts, but you should scan for these keywords when you make another pass through your manuscript and convert these "tells" to "shows" -- and she has many, many examples of doing just that.

When I finished the book, I had a burning desire to walk back through my manuscripts to apply what I had learned. Her tag line "And Really Getting It" might even be an understatement. Her next book in the Skill Builders Series is "Understanding Conflict: (And What It Really Means)." I pushed the "buy" button for that book within moments of finishing this one. You will, too. Highly recommended.

Paul Teague says

Great book for authors

Show, Don't Tell is my author nemesis, so this book was just what I needed. I love the red flag word lists and the working examples, they help to clarify and consolidate the learning. I bought this book on Kindle then immediately bought the paperback so that I can highlight bits, add scribbles and keep it by my side at all times. Thanks for writing a practical, non-preachy book which really helps authors get to grips this this difficult topic.

Stephen Smith says

I've listened to hundreds of hours of writing podcasts and read tons of helpful writing advice, but I think this one book is going to help my writing more than anything else. The author provides incredible insight that opened my eyes to the many ways writers "tell" without even knowing it. I can finally put my finger on why certain writing "sounds amateur" and other writing "sounds great."

I absolutely recommend this book. THANK YOU JANICE!

writegeist says

Good information with lots of practical recommendations for how to ferret out those pesky telling passages or at least to know when and why you choose to tell rather than show (Hardy points out there are times when telling is appropriate). A quick read and worth spending the time.

Julia Ash says

This book is such an awesome resource! Janice Hardy takes commonly "told" advice (Show, Don't Tell) and uses clear examples to "show" what it means and how to spot it in your writing! Most importantly, she provides lists of look-for words which help flag telling prose. So happy I read this book :)

Jorge Silva says

Simply amazing. The best book I have read to improve my writing. Brief and to the point.

Kim says

A down and dirty guide to showing vs telling. Includes clear examples of telling and how to fix it and balancing telling with showing. Hardy also lists and explains red flag words and phrases to find telling in your writing. One of the best explanations of "show, don't tell" I've seen. Quick and deceptively easy to read for such a slippery subject to new writers.

Beth says

Found this informative and helpful, the only complaint was a minor one with the ebook's formatting, but it didn't bother me enough to mark off.

Susan says

Solid book on craft that gives very specific examples on not only how to identify show vs tell in text, but also of how to fix it.

Found this to be an incredibly helpful resource.