Storytelling

READING SKILLS

The art of storytelling

Scan the interview about storytelling.

Q So, we're here with author Rhonda Howard. Rhonda, what exactly makes a story good?

A Well, I narrowed it down to the four "S"s of storytelling. We already talked about the first S: simple. People often like stories with ideas and language that are easy to understand. We discussed the second S, too: shared experiences. People don't need to actually experience the events in the story, but they want to feel like they did. And this leads us to a famous storytelling S: Show, don't tell.

Q I've heard of that. What does that mean?

A Here's a quick example: "Jorge was walking into his house when he saw an animal." That's telling. "Jorge was nervously walking into his dark living room when two large, yellow eyes appeared in front of him." That's showing!

Q I get it – I felt like I was walking with Jorge in the second example.

A Exactly!

Q So, what is the fourth S?

A Surprise! People love surprises – especially at the end of a story.

What are the four "S"s?

1. .....
2. .....
3. .....
4. .....

The art of storytelling

Read the statements. Which ones are showing (S)? Which ones are telling (T)?

1 After she left the house, she put on her scarf and turned her face away from the cold wind. .....

2 The temperature fell and we felt cold, but we were happy that we were wearing heavy jackets. .....

3 I was really tired because I had gone to bed late the night before. .....

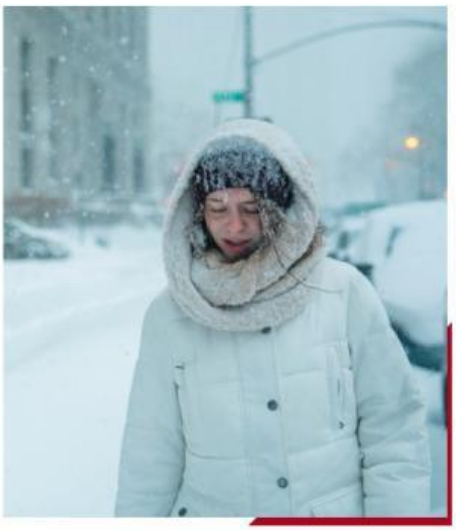
4 Pablo's eyes were red and swollen, and he couldn't stop yawning all morning. .....

5 Yellow, red, and brown leaves crunched underneath our feet as we walked. .....

6 There were a lot of dead leaves on the ground. .....

7 She ate some fresh tomatoes that she got from the garden. .....

8 Juice from the sweet, ripe tomato fell down her chin. .....



LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING

"The Monster in the Woods"

Read the story. Do you think the story has the 4 "S"s? What example(s) can you find?

When I was 15, I loved reading scary stories about monsters. It was summer, and my family and I were on vacation near a lake. One evening, they went down to the beach to meet friends for a barbecue. I was reading a monster story and wanted to finish it before the barbecue, so they left me behind. An hour later, my brother David came to get me, and we started walking to the beach. It was totally dark, and I was telling David about the awful monster in the story — a huge, black, animal-like monster. We were both frightened by the story and the dark night. Then suddenly — out of the trees right beside us — a huge, black, animal-like monster appeared! We screamed and screamed! While we were screaming, my father ran to us. Then we told him our horrible story. And what did he do? He laughed — because standing in the distance was King, our neighbor's dog. He was black and pretty big — but definitely not a monster!

Do you think the story has the 4 "S"s? .....

What example(s) can you find?

1. **Simple:**
2. **Shared experiences:**
3. **Show, don't tell:**
4. **Surprise:**

LIVEWORKSHEETS