

Creating Characters Showing Through Description

You can tell your readers what your characters are like, or you can show them. Showing is far more effective. Describing how a character looks as he or she is experiencing an emotion is an effective way of getting your point across and to make sure your reader experiences it, too.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE:

The baby was cranky.

REVISED WRITING, SHOWING CHARACTER THROUGH DESCRIPTION:

The baby's face scrunched up into a tight little ball, and its tiny fists clenched. His face turned bright red, and it let out a cry that nearly took my ears off.

Rewrite this sentence to show character through description.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE:

Lucy was getting really annoyed.

REVISED WRITING, SHOWING CHARACTER THROUGH DESCRIPTION:

Take each of these telling sentences and use description to show how the character looked as he or she experienced the situation in the sentence. Write your revised sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Susie wanted that piece of cake.
2. He was afraid of getting caught.
3. She waited anxiously to see if she won the contest.
4. The crowd was joyful when their team won.
5. Boris tried to think of a solution.

For each of the following emotions, write a sentence on your notebook paper showing how a character might look while experiencing that emotion: amusement, determination, shame, confidence, and fear.