

~ IDEAS ~

A piece that is strong in ideas moves beyond “telling” into the realm of “showing.” A book that is well-written sends you away with a feeling that you actually knew the characters or had seen the setting.

EXAMPLE:

Jane dressed in an unusual way.

TO:

Jane came to school today in pink and white polka dot leggings and a blue and green paisley shirt. The twelve inch purple feather sticking straight up from her orange hat almost kept me from noticing the army boots on her feet.

Without over doing the details the second paragraph gives us a vivid picture of Jane's unusual clothes. I would have never guessed what she was wearing. It also has that “gotcha” quality – I couldn't stop reading. I wanted to know exactly what she was wearing because I could just see her strutting down the halls.