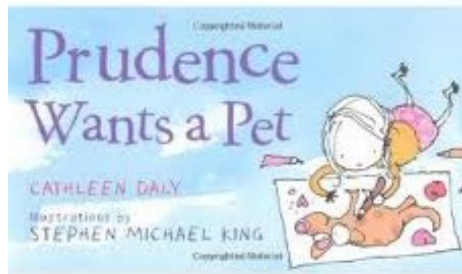


## Writing Trait: Word Choice

Learning Intention: Use the 'Show, Don't Tell' strategy to add details



By Cathleen Daly

### Before Reading

Learning Outcomes:

Use the picture and the title of this book to make predictions. Ask students what they think the problem in this story might be.

Before continuing, ask students to make and share their pet connections.

### During Reading

Learning Outcomes: B6, B11

After reading the page in which Prudence chooses a branch for a pet, ask students to turn and talk about an unusual pet they have had. Share ideas with the whole class. Read the rest of the book uninterrupted.

### After Reading

Reading and Writing Learning Outcomes: B7, B11, C5

The reaction that Prudence has when she opens her birthday gift, is a lovely example of 'Show, Don't Tell'. The author, Cathleen Daly, does not tell us she cries with joy. Instead, she shows us. We want our students to recognize the use of this writing technique and try it out for themselves. So the lesson inspired by this book gets students trying out this technique for themselves. Create a question that intrigues kids such as, In what other ways can we show and not tell that someone is happy.

#### Tell (BORING)

A telling sentence is boring.  
My Reader won't be able to visualize

Prudence was happy.

#### Show (INTERESTING!)

With interesting details, my reader  
can visualize.



“Mew.”

Prudence stands up and jumps up and down eight times. Her eyes get hot and tingly. She’s so happy it leaks out of her eyes a little. She didn’t know about those kinds of tears.



“Aren’t you going to open it?” says Mom.



<p><b>Tell (BORING)</b></p> <p>A telling sentence is boring. My Reader won't be able to visualize</p>	<p><b>Show (INTERESTING!)</b></p> <p>With interesting details, my reader can visualize.</p>
<p>Prudence was happy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• she did a happy dance,</li> <li>• wiggled and giggled with delight</li> <li>• her smile muscles were stretched beyond their limit</li> <li>• as happy as a bear with a hollow tree full of honey (that's a simile!)</li> <li>• sing a song</li> <li>• skip</li> <li>•</li> </ul>