

Say It Without Saying It

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Can you give the reader a sense of a character or situation without saying it directly? Make your reader experience the words. See the examples below.

ORIGINAL: Alison’s breath stank.

REVISED: Marco plugged his nose while his eyes watered and he held his nose as Allison spoke.

Have you ever been conversing with someone and wished you had some gum to offer them?

ORIGINAL: Randy was happy.

REVISED: Randy whistled a tune and skipped down the path.

Happy is a word like beautiful. I know in general what you meant. I don’t get an image in my head.

ORIGINAL: Claudia danced to the beat.

REVISED: Claudia wiggled her hips and spun in circles to the boom of the bass drum and crash of cymbals.

ORIGINAL : Fear surged through Bob.

REVISED : Bob’s hands trembled, his voice shook and the hair rose on his arms.

Without explaining what Bob saw the reader knows he is fearful.

Give 3 examples of saying something without saying it?

Tired

Weak

Aggravated

Thankful

Selfish

Rude

Witty

Ferocious
