**Kansas Writer’s, Inc**

Kansas Writer’s INK Newsletter

September 2018

**Board Members 2018 - 2019:**

President: Tish Glasson

Vice President: Jason Glasson

Secretary: Leslie Galbraith

Treasurer: Shayne Sawyer

Membership: Morgan Chilson

Newsletter: Brittany Willes

Advisor to the President: Billie-Renee Knight

**September Meeting Program**

Covers Sell Books

**August Program Summary**

The program in August was **“Show Don’t Tell”** brought to us by KWI member, Tish Glasson.

**Showing** is a technique used in storytelling that allows the reader to experience a story through action, words, thoughts, senses, and feelings of the characters rather than through the author’s exposition and description. It avoids adjectives describing the author’s analysis, instead describes the scene in a way that the reader can draw their own conclusions.

**Telling** is factual, brief, and an efficient way to communicate data, avoids detail, conveys a broad message, isn’t necessarily human-centered, and doesn’t stir the heart.

**Showing** is human-centered, is slower, richer, a more expansive way to communicate, isn’t efficient, loves detail, tends to place the human subject at the center, and often stirs the heart. Showing is dramatic, involves dialogue, and plays out in real time.

**Telling** isn’t always a bad thing. Sometimes we simply need to impart information rather than evoke emotion. However, among the pitfalls of telling we find the following:

1. Narrating the physical movements without being in character’s head.

2. Use of too many ‘ly’ words in action or dialogue.

3. Use of stock descriptions, purple prose or lengthy descriptions of places and people, especially those who have no bearing on the plot.

4. Too many adjectives and clichés.

5. Omniscient POV. e.g.: The man getting hit on the head cannot see the glass as it falls six stories to the ground.

Here are some of the strengths of **Showing**:

1. Action that uses the senses, stays within the character’s consciousness and uses words and

phrases that reinforce the mood of the scene.

2. Strong verbs.

3. Original images and vivid descriptions filtered through the character’s senses in the present.

4. One compelling adjective vs. a string of mediocre ones.

5. Keeps POV firmly in a character’s head which establishes sympathy and connects emotionally.

How to tell if you’re telling: Any form of the word “to be” “he was” “she is” “it was.” In other

words, passive verb phrases.

Dialogue Tags are not always necessary, and can be telling and often cringe worthy. (She said

jokingly, he said knowingly). However, Tish pointed out that dialogue itself is always showing,

because a dialogue line is reflecting straight up what’s happening in the scene, moment-by-

moment. The example she gave is as follows:

Instead of telling the audience Don Pedro was a powerful man, the author writes: *“The guy in*

*the white suit, who just got off the Royce Rolls… that’s Don Pedro,” she muttered. “He seems to*

*always get his way. People he doesn’t like… they just disappear. His power seems to have no*

*Limits!”*

In that direct speech the author **shows** in part (white suit, Royce Rolls), and in part we’re told

(seems to always get his way, people disappear, power seems to have no limits). But all the

telling in this is no problem because the person talking is the character, not the author. A

convenient and perfectly fine way to sneak some telling in through the backdoor.

Tish read several other examples of telling vs. showing then asked which we preferred. We

chose the showing each time.

In a letter to a fan who’d requested writing advice, C. S. Lewis, wrote: Don’t use adjectives

which merely tell us how you want us to feel about the things you are describing. I mean, instead

of telling us a thing was “terrible,” describe it so that we’ll be terrified. Don’t say it was

“delightful”; make us say “delightful” when we’ve read the description. You see, all those words

(horrifying, wonderful, hideous, exquisite) are only like saying to your readers, “Please will you

do my job for me?”

Finally, in the words of Anton Chekhov. “Don’t tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint

of light on broken glass.”

Tish will cite her sources upon request.

Respectfully submitted,

Shayne Huxtable

**August Meeting Minutes**

Minutes not available at time of publishing.

**Financials - August**

Beginning Cash Balance    $3,616.21

Income                                     220.00

Expenses                                 134.82

Ending Cash Balance         $3,701.39

**Membership Renewal**

KS Writer’s Inc is celebrating 20 years! The original group, Kansas Fiction Writers, was founded by romance authors and a romance reviewer. Those early days were exciting for the novice writers, and today a handful of the early members are still attending meetings and still writing. With the end of the financial year it’s time to renew your membership. Fees remain the same as last year at 20.00.

A renewal form is attached to the newsletter. You may bring it with you to the meeting or mail it

to Shayne Sawyer. (Her address is at the bottom of the form.)

You have until October 1 st to renew at which time the membership roster will be updated.

**Kudos**

No kudos this month.

**KWI Blog**

Are you interested in writing a blog for KWI? Contact Tish ‘Bear’ Glasson by e-mail: bearwmnkwi@gmail.com (She offers bribes for posts).

**KWI Meetings**

**Next Meeting**

When: October 27, 2018

Where:  Anton Room

Topic: NaNoWriMo - That First Draft

**Future Meeting**

When: December 1, 2018

Where:

Topic: Holiday Party

**All Meetings Begin as Follows:**

Time - 9:30am - 3:30pm

Writing/Critique/Audio Lecture

Open Writing - 9:30am - 10:00am

Critiquing - 10:00am - 11:30 am

Board Meeting - 11:30am - 12:00pm

Member Meeting - 12:30pm - 1:00 pm

Program Topic - 1:00 pm - 2:30pm

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