

Using Authentic Literature to
Demonstrate

“Showing, Not Telling” in
Writing

How Can We

SHOW

NOT

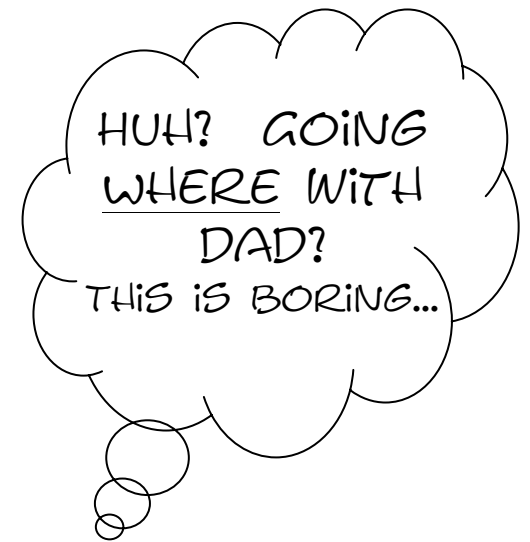
Just Tell?

What if a favorite author only

told

the story?

Going with My Dad



We kept going.

It was very cold.

**I didn't say anything because you
have to be quiet.**



We went into the woods.

They were dark.

My scarf felt weird.

I tried to be brave.



We got to a place with no trees.



WERE THEY IN A
GRASSY PLACE? I
WONDER HOW
BRIGHT THE MOON
WAS.

We saw the moon.

It was bright.

I made a little noise.

My dad told me not to make noise.



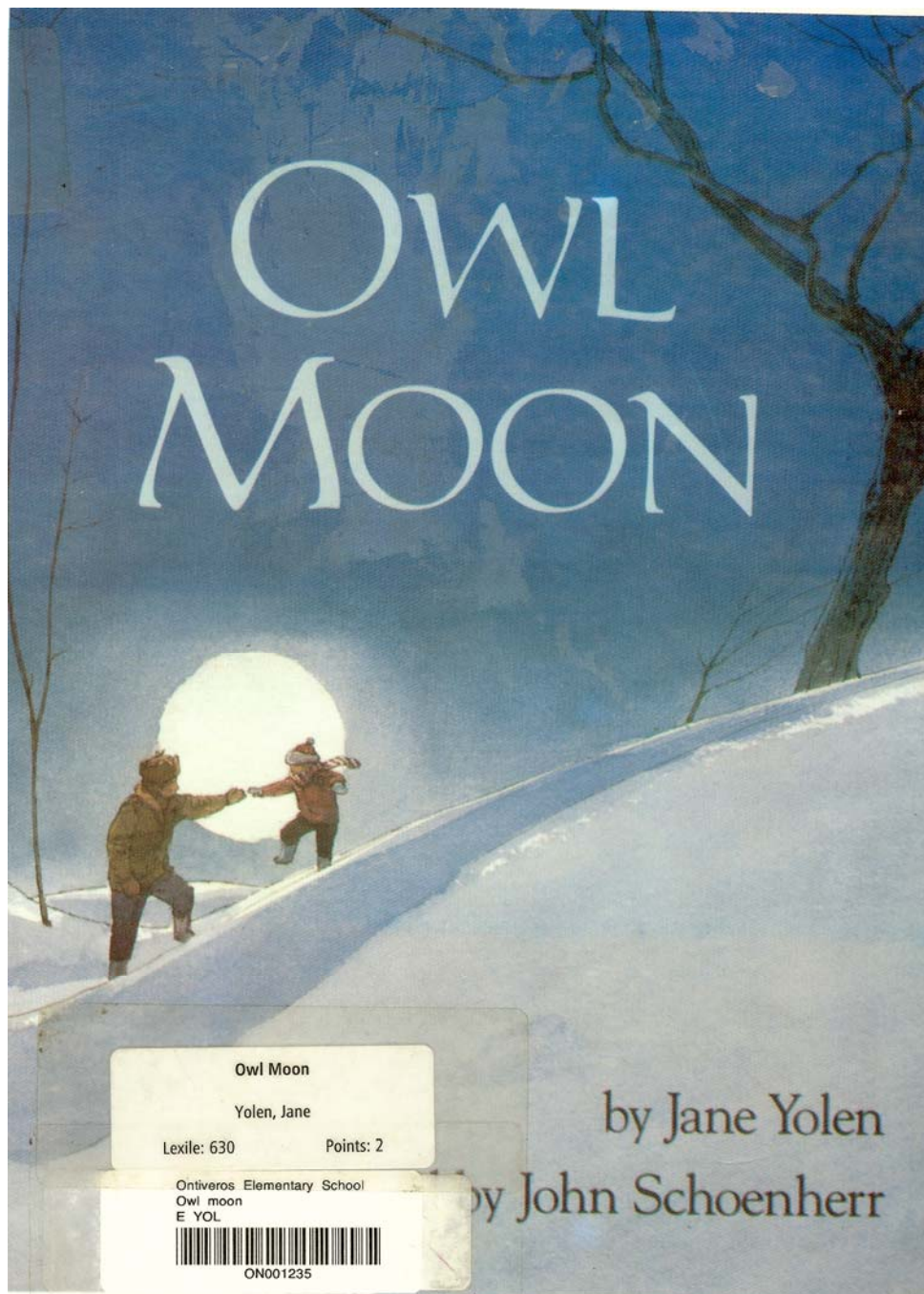
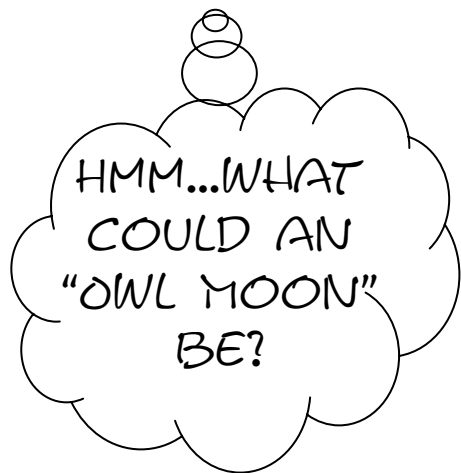
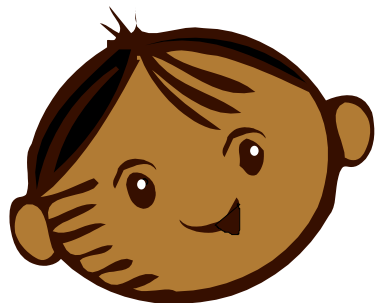
My dad called for an owl.

I tried to listen carefully.



We heard an owl.

or

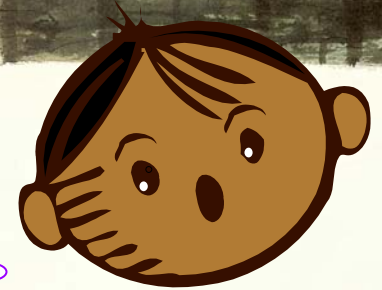




We walked on.
I could feel the cold,
as if someone's icy hand
was palm-down on my back.
And my nose
and the tops of my cheeks
felt cold and hot
at the same time.
But I never said a word.
If you go owling
you have to be quiet
and make your own heat.

personification

sensory
language



RRRRR...IT WAS
REALLY COLD
THERE!!

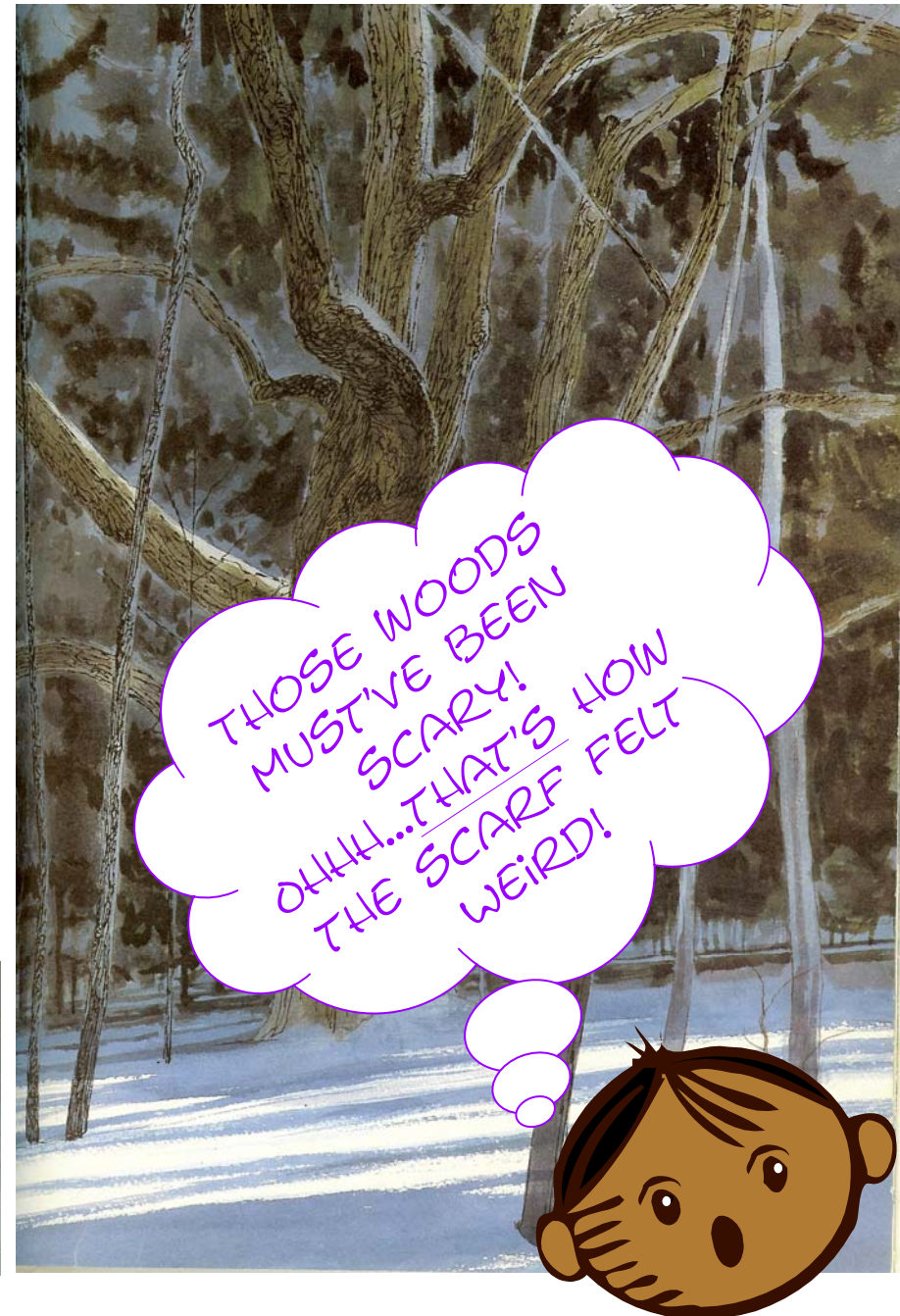
hyperbole

We went into the woods.
The shadows
were the blackest things
I had ever seen.

They stained the white snow.
My mouth felt furry,
for the scarf over it
was wet and warm.

I didn't ask
what kinds of things
hide behind black trees
in the middle of the night.
When you go owling
you have to be brave.

sensory
language

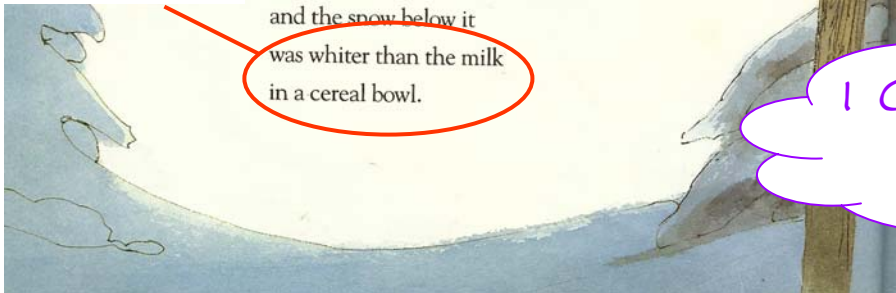




Precise choice
of words

Then we came to a clearing
in the dark woods.
The moon was high above us.
It seemed to fit
exactly
over the center of the clearing
and the snow below it
was whiter than the milk
in a cereal bowl.

simile



I CAN PICTURE IT IN
MY MIND!



I sighed
and Pa held up his hand
at the sound.
I put my mittens
over the scarf
over my mouth
and listened hard.
And then Pa called:
"Whoo-who-who-who-who-whooooooo.
Whoo-who-who-who-who-whooooooo."
I listened
and looked so hard
my ears hurt
and my eyes got cloudy
with the cold.
Pa raised his face
to call out again,
but before he could
open his mouth
an echo
came threading its way
through the trees.
"Whoo-who-who-who-who-whooooooo."

quotation

sensory
language

vivid verb



IT'S AS IF I WERE
THERE!

❖ **Figurative language**

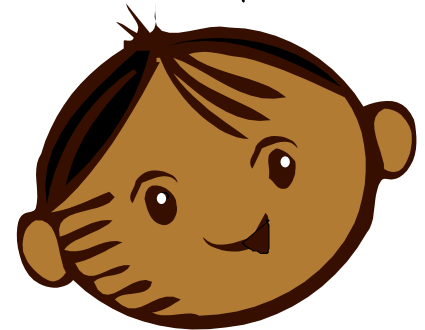
❖ **Vivid Verbs**

❖ **Quotations**

❖ **Precise Word Choice**

❖ **Sensory Language**

JANE YOLEN REALLY
KNOWS HOW TO
PAINT WITH WORDS!
DO YOU?



5th Grade California Standard
for
Writing Applications 2.1

*"Show, rather than tell, the
events in a story"*

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/index.asp>

Ideas adapted from Presentation by
Dr. Candace Roberts, St. Leo University
NCTE Convention,
Pittsburgh, PA, November 19, 2005

Original text and illustrations of Owl Moon by Jane Yolen, illustrated by John Schoenherr; Philomel, 1987

Used with permission

<http://www.janeyolen.com>

Additional resources for teaching Word Choice:

<http://www.efuse.com/Design/wa-specifics.html>

<http://www.nwrel.org/assessment/department.php?d=1>