

# Writing

## ~SHOW, DON'T TELL~



The Little House books use descriptive language to show the actions and emotions of the characters. For example, when Mary leaves for college, and she and Laura take one last walk together through the prairie, “Laura’s throat choked up. She winked her eyelids hard and took a deep breath but her voice quivered” (from *Little Town on the Prairie*, p. 111). In *On the Banks of Plum Creek*, Wilder remarked that “her whole skin felt thirsty” (p. 29). Discuss with your class how Wilder showed how Laura felt, rather than simply telling us. Ask students to think of a time when they were feeling strong emotions, then to write about it using this “show, don’t tell” method.