Showing vs. Telling

As a writer, you always want to show readers what is happening; don’t just tell them that something happened.

In **telling**, you just narrate a chronological chain of events. (This happened, that happened, then finally, something else happened. The end.)

In **showing**, you give specific details and employ various literary techniques, such as figurative language, sensory imagery, tone, diction, etc. to help your reader feel a part of the story. (This wonderful, beautiful, living thing blossomed before our very eyes, followed by a loud and lively rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Finally, after the jubilant festivities ended and the music had faded into the night, the people scattered like fireflies across the field on their way to their separate lives.)

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