



Day Three: Take Action!

There are two parts to this.

Part One: BOLD character action

How do we know Rick has a strong moral code in *The Walking Dead*? Because he handcuffed a racist to the roof of a building after he'd beaten up his colleague? Or because he went back to rescue him? What would his friend Shane have done? Based on Shane's past *actions*, he would have left the guy to rot on the roof.

Both the action, and the non-action give us clues to Rick and Shane's characters.

Sometimes, it's easier to just straight up tell your reader that Rick is a moral kind of guy. But that's telling. We don't want to have *telling* passages in our writing, we have to have *showing* passages. This means showing how our character behaves in response to something.

For example, a man hurries to push in front of a woman entering a building. What does this action say about him? What if we knew that he was a medic? What if we knew he wanted to prove a point against chivalry. The action talks to us.

What does the below clip tell us about this guy?

<https://youtu.be/51vuAIP4GmU>



Your turn

A songwriter walks into a party and sees his collaborator who stole his song all those years ago. He doesn't want to make a scene because the collaborator is now a hotshot producer. Your songwriter believes in revenge. What does he do? Write the scene.

How to identify that your character **TAKES NO ACTION..?**

The 'was' monster

You know how this one goes...*he was angry, she was excited, they were so happy.* You've told me exactly how they feel, but, it's lazy writing, if we're being honest. You need to show us their state of emotion from their behaviour.

Find and replace 'was' by using ACTION to describe the character.

Part Two: BODILY CHARACTER REACTION

Head on over to this clip: https://youtu.be/_opSDV7ahUU



Notice the way her nostrils flare, her frown deepens, her body shakes, her chest rises, and her mouth starts pursed then throws wide open. There is no missing she is angry. But look at all of those visual, non-verbal cues...

Your turn

Ask a family member, friend, confidante, neighbour to chat about something that means a lot to them. Record all of their non-verbal cues. Watch their posture, note the pitch and tone of their voice, see what they do with their hands.

Now, ask them to talk about something they're excited about. How are their non-verbal cues different?

TO RECAP:

- Action describes character
- How does your character move? Speak? Carry themselves?
 - Have you been attacked by the 'was' monster?
- Have you shown emotions in your character's face and gestures?

