Snapshots and Thoughtshots
Snapshots
SNAPSHOT

a description of a detail that uses one or more of the five senses should be easy for the reader to picture
Show, Don’t Tell...

• Maybe you’ve heard this good advice from teacher.

• Writing gets better the more we can zoom in on specific concrete details to make powerful feelings come alive.
• Don’t write about how bad your day was at school.

• Instead, describe the inky pen stain on your pants, the scab forming on your grass-stained knee, the smashed peanut butter sandwich which was supposed to be your lunch, the crumpled chemistry test in your back pack.

• Our symbol for a snapshot will be this:
Thoughtshots
Thought shot-describing what the narrator thinks or feels
What about “Tell, Don’t Show”??

- We’ve talked about “show don’t tell,” but is there a time when it’s better to tell your reader rather than show your reader?
- There is a time in writing when it’s better to “tell, don’t show.” When you do this, you go into the thoughts of how you feel, what you’re thinking, dreaming, imagining, etc.
- These are called “thoughtshots.”
- In a thoughtshot, you let your reader see what’s going on in the head of your characters.
Don’t just show, tell me what you are thinking!

• It wasn’t the worst day I’d ever had, but it was definitely top ten.
• Great, my new pants were stained. Now my mom would kill me.
• I had studied for that test! Why was this happening to me?
• Our symbol for a thought shot will be this:
1. One time my teacher was asking questions in class. 2. I wasn’t paying attention. 3. She called on me. 4. I had to go to the board to write the answer. 5. I was embarrassed.

Now let’s try it....

Where should the s go?

Where should the s go?

Let’s come up with a few examples!