Lesson 7: Telling or Asking?

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Amy.

We're going to read a book. It's called *A Party. A Party? A Party! Let's party.*

As we read, I want you to pay attention to two characters in particular, Statement Stella and Question Quinn. See what you can notice about how Statement Stella and Question Quinn talk.

Okay, ready?

HOOK 2

We finished this story. Now let's take a quick body break.

Stand up where you are.

Stretch your arms up to the ceiling like Exclamation Emma.

Wag your finger like Command Colin.

Shrug your shoulders like Question Quinn.

Put your hands on your hips like Statement Stella.

Take a deep breath. Now let it out.

Okay. Great. Sit back down.

When everyone is sitting, you can go to the next video.

HOOK 3

You read a story about four friends who go to a party: Statement Stella, Question Quinn, Command Colin, and Exclamation Emma. These friends have really different personalities, and they speak really differently from each other, too.

Take Question Quinn, for example. When Quinn talks, he always asks for an answer about something. For example, when the friends are on the bus, he asks, "Why did we stop?" When he loses his friends, he asks, "Where are my friends?" When the friends go home, he asks, "When can we go to another party?" These sentences are all questions—Question Quinn always asks questions.

A question is a sentence that asks for an answer. I like to remember that by doing this: a question asks for an answer. Try that with me: a question asks for an answer. One more time: a question asks for an answer.

Take a look at the very end of those sentences Quinn said in the story. They all end with the same mark. See?

Draw that mark in the air with your finger. It's a question mark. Questions always end with a question mark. That's one way a writer shows that a sentence is a question.

In your daily life, you probably ask questions all the time.

DISCUSSION 3

Discuss: Think of a time when you asked a question. Why did you ask that question?

HOOK 4

We ask questions for many different reasons. But no matter what we're asking about, we're almost always hoping that someone will tell us an answer.

That's where Statement Stella comes in. When Stella talks, she doesn't ask, she tells. Like, for example, when the friends arrive at the party, she tells her friends what she's thinking: "I want to dance." When she loses her friends at the party, she states the facts: "I don't know where my friends are." When the friends go home, she tells how she feels about the party: "That party was too crowded."

Statement Stella's sentences never end in question marks. They all end in a different mark. Can you see it?

Draw it in the air with your finger. It's a period. These sentences that Statement Stella said are all statements.

A statement is a sentence that tells something the writer thinks, feels, or knows. I like to remember that by doing this: a statement is a sentence that tells. Try that with me: a statement is a sentence that tells. One more time: a statement is a sentence that tells.

You say statements all the time just like Stella does.

DISCUSSION 4

Discuss: Think of a time when you said a statement. Why did you say that statement?

HOOK 5

Statement Stella and Question Quinn are made up people, but statements and questions are real, and the difference between them is important in real life.

Imagine you meet someone new. They say, "My name is Pat." That's a statement. You might say, "Nice to meet you, Pat."

Now imagine you meet someone new, and they say, "Is my name Pat?" That's a question. You might say, "I don't know."

These sentences look similar, but their meanings are totally different. Think you can spot the difference between statements and questions? In today's lesson, we'll try it out.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Teacher: Tape up the statement and question posters on opposite walls.

Find the Statement Stella poster. Write "A statement is a sentence that tells." at the bottom of the poster.

Now find the Question Quinn poster. Write "A question is a sentence that asks for an answer."

When you're done, go to the next step.

STEP 2

In a minute, I'm going to show you a bunch of sentences. It's your job to figure out if each sentence is a question—or something the writer is asking, or a statement—something the writer is telling.

When your teacher says it's okay, stand up and move to a spot between the two posters.

STEP 3

Let's practice first.

This sentence says, "Who likes ice cream?" This sentence asks for an answer, and it ends with a question mark. This sentence is a question.

Find the Question Quinn poster on the wall. When your teacher says go, walk slowly and calmly to that side of the room. When you get there, make the Question Quinn pose.

STEP 4

Great. Let's try another.

This sentence says, "I like ice cream." This sentence tells us something, and it ends with a period, so this is a statement.

Find the Statement Stella poster on the wall. When your teacher says go, walk slowly and calmly to that side of the room. When you get there, make the Statement Stella pose.

STEP 5

Great, now that we've practiced, let's play the game for real.

Round one.

Here's the sentence: "How are you?"

If you think this is a statement, walk to the Statement Stella poster and make the statement pose. If you think this is a question, walk to the Question Quinn poster and make the question pose.

STEP 6

"How are you?" is a question. If you didn't get that one right, no worries.

Let's try another sentence.

This sentence says, "Volcanoes are real." Figure out which poster to go to.

STEP 7

"Volcanoes are real." is a statement.

For this next round, we're going to make things a little harder. I'm going to hide the punctuation mark at the end of the sentence. You get to decide whether it should be a period or a question mark at the end.

Okay. Here's the sentence: "Where did all the cheese go"

If you think this sentence should end with a period, walk to the Statement Stella poster and make the statement pose.

If you think this should end in a question mark, walk to the Question Quinn poster and make the question pose.

STEP 8

"Where did all the cheese go?" is a question. It should end with a question mark.

Great work! Here's the next round.

This sentence says, "Pigs can fly." Figure out which poster to go to.

STEP 9

“Pigs can fly." is a statement. It should end with a period.

Okay. Last round.

This sentence says, "I am the most beautiful tiger alive." Figure out which poster to go to.

STEP 10

"I am the most beautiful tiger alive." is a statement. It should end with a period.

Great work sorting sentences! If you have time, you can play more rounds with these sentences. Otherwise, give yourself a silent round of applause.

When your teacher says it's okay, sit back down at your desk.

STEP 11

Get your supplies.

STEP 12

On both of your worksheets, there's a line that says "Name." Write your name on the top of both worksheets.

STEP 13

We read a book called *A Party. A Party? A Party! Let's party.* The four friends in the story each talk differently. For example, Statement Stella always says statements. A statement is a sentence that tells something the writer thinks or something the writer

knows. Question Quinn speaks in questions. A question is a sentence that asks for an answer about something.

In the story, Question Quinn pets this dog at the party. He asks, "Who's a good dog?"

Now look at your Question Quinn worksheet. There are three sentences all missing their punctuation mark at the end. Which one is a question that Quinn might ask? Would he say:

"This dog is brown and fuzzy"

"What is the name of this dog"

"My dog smells better"

Circle the sentence, that's a question.

STEP 14

"What is the name of this dog" is a sentence that asks for an answer.

"This dog is brown and fuzzy" and "My dog smells better" don't ask anything. They tell. So, "What is the name of this dog" is a question, which should end with a question mark. The other two sentences are statements, which should end with periods.

I'm going to circle this one—the question.

STEP 15

Write the question you circled in Quinn's speech bubble. Or if you want, you can write a different question that Quinn might ask. Either way, add the correct punctuation mark at the end of your sentence.

STEP 16

In the story, Statement Stella dances on a dance floor. She says, "This is a loud song."

Now look at your Statement Stella worksheet. Next to the picture of Stella, there are three sentences, all missing their punctuation marks. Which one is a statement that Stella might say?

Would she say:

"Do I know this song"

"When is lunch"

"I love to dance"

Circle the sentence that's a statement.

STEP 17

"I love to dance" is a sentence that tells us something the writer knows.

"Do I know this song" and "When is lunch" don't tell us anything, they ask.

"I love to dance" is a statement, which should end with a period. The other two are questions, which should end with question marks. I'm going to circle this one—the statement.

STEP 18

Write the statement you circled in Stella's speech bubble. Or, if you want, you can come up with your own statement and write what else Stella might say. Remember to add the correct punctuation mark.

WRAP UP

Congratulations! You've gotten inside the minds of Statement Stella and Question Quinn.

We use statements and questions every day in our lives, and we use them for different reasons. Knowing when to use the right type of sentence can be the difference between "Do I want a cookie" and "I want a cookie."

Before we go, hang up the Statement Stella and Question Quinn posters somewhere in your classroom and use them to think about how and why we use different types of sentences.

See you next time, writers.