

# SHOW, DON'T TELL

KRISTINE  
GASBARRE

A WRITER, HER TEACHER, AND  
THE POWER OF SHARING OUR STORIES

Book Club Guide

# A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Dear Educator,

You have one of the most challenging jobs on the planet...but the giver of this gift believes you're one of the best at it in the world.

In *Show, Don't Tell*, we honor the souls like you, who dedicate your heart to your students. I wanted to celebrate Mrs. Korthaus as just one way to lift you up, too.

Enjoy the read—and remember that even on the rough days, there's no doubt you're leaving a permanent mark on growing individuals, and therefore on our world.

We love you, we applaud you, we hope this read brings you rest and inspiration.

*Thank you,,*

*Love*

*Carol*

*Krissy*



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## Personal Reflections & Themes

1. The book highlights the profound influence of Mrs. Korthaus on Kristine's life. Have you ever had a teacher or mentor who shaped your path in a significant way? What lessons did they teach you?
2. Kristine Gasbarre emphasizes the importance of sharing our personal stories. How has storytelling—either telling your own or listening to others'—impacted your life?
3. The title *Show, Don't Tell* refers to a key writing principle. How do you think this applies to both the book's storytelling and the larger themes of mentorship and teaching?
4. Mrs. Korthaus is described as being ahead of her time. In what ways did she challenge traditional expectations for women and teachers?
5. The book moves between personal relationships, historical moments, and personal growth. Which part of the narrative resonated with you the most?

## Teaching & Influence

1. Mrs. Korthaus believed in pushing her students beyond their comfort zones. Do you think teachers today have the same influence on students? How has education changed over time?
2. The book discusses Mrs. Korthaus's unconventional journey to becoming a teacher. How does her story challenge our ideas of career paths and finding one's true calling?
3. If you were to teach or mentor someone based on your life experiences, what would be your key lessons?
4. What would you say is the biggest challenge educators face today?

## History & Social Change

1. Mrs. Korthaus marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. How did this part of her life shape her teaching philosophy?
2. The book touches on the idea of women building corporate careers in a time when it wasn't as common. How do you think her experiences in the corporate world influenced her teaching style?
3. The book shows the importance of intergenerational friendships. What do you think modern society can learn from deeper connections between younger and older generations?

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## Resilience & Strength

1. Mrs. Korthaus faced many challenges throughout her life, including illness. How did her resilience shape the way she taught and lived?
2. Kristine Gasbarre's friendship with Mrs. Korthaus spanned decades. What do you think are the key elements of long-lasting, meaningful relationships?
3. One of the major lessons in the book is about "showing up fully for life." What does that mean to you? How do you apply it in your own life?

## Writing & Storytelling

1. The book moves between different time periods and themes. How did the structure of the storytelling affect your reading experience?
2. Kristine Gasbarre writes about Mrs. Korthaus with deep admiration. Do you think the author does a good job of portraying her as a three-dimensional person? Why or why not?
3. If you could ask Kristine Gasbarre one question about writing this book, what would it be?

## Action & Legacy

1. The book serves as a reminder to thank the people who've influenced us. Have you reached out to a teacher or mentor who shaped your life? If not, how could you do so now?
2. Mrs. Korthaus made a lasting impact on her students. How do you hope to influence others, either personally or professionally?
3. If you could take one key message from *Show, Don't Tell* and share it with someone else, what would it be and why?



# SALAD PIZZA

An easy dish to serve your book club. One of Mrs. Korthaus' favorites! Serve with a great glass of wine (I'm partial to Sutter Home wines!)

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 frozen cauliflower crust pizza
- 1 tbsp. Gazebo Room Greek salad dressing and marinade
- 1 c. arugula
- 1 c. white beans (cannellini beans or chickpeas)
- 1 c. diced grape or cherry tomatoes

Optional:

- Additional vegetables: bell peppers (red, yellow, or orange), red onion, basil.
- Fresh mozzarella or shredded cheese.

## DIRECTIONS

1. Bake the pizza according to the label's instructions. Optionally, add fresh mozzarella or shredded cheese before you bake.
2. While the pizza is baking, slice tomatoes into halves or quarters.
3. In a bowl, toss arugula, white beans, and tomatoes in the Gazebo Room Greek dressing. (You can add more dressing if you like, you just want the vegetables to be light and not sopping.)
4. When the pizza is ready, top it with the salad. Slice and serve.



# LEAVE A REVIEW

**I'd love to hear what you think! Please consider leaving a review of the book on a book review site, like GoodReads, or at the retailer or library where you got the book.**

