“Show, Don’t Tell” Prompts

One bad habit we all have as writers is the phenomenon of telling the audience what’s happening, rather than showing them. In order to evoke emotional connection with a text, it’s necessary to revise our writing so that the audience experiences the same events as a given character(s).

Tell: It was hot and smelly on Mount Doom

Show: **Noisome gas penetrated Frodo’s nose, the suffocating heat filling his lungs with nothing close to oxygen, sweat pouring even from his brow.**

Please write one descriptive paragraph for each of THREE of the following prompts (6-8 sentences, no need for a conclusion):

1. The tip of an eraser as it completes its task
2. A drug addict who’s entering withdrawal
3. A bunch of Patriots fans watching last years’ Super Bowl OR the same number of Seahawks watching the same game
4. Entering Willy Wonka’s Chocolate factory
5. Climbing Mt. Everest (or some other incredibly tall peak)
6. Attending a best friend’s wedding
7. The moment you fall in love
8. Performing a solo (dance, instrumental, vocal, etc.)
9. Drowning
10. A Cheetah devouring an antelope