

KENNEDY FIELDS' EMULATION HANDBOOK



In "X a novel," Ilyasah Shabazz documents her father, Malcolm X, hardships of growing up. In this book she even opens with him on the run, trying to escape reality. He is being chased by a bad man in town because he's apparently done something wrong by crossing him. As soon as he's found, the section ends and we'll have to wait until it reoccurs. In the meantime the sporadic plot is going back in forth in time going through years of his bumpy road life dealing with seperation, poverty, and death.

CHAPTER ORGANIZATION

What's this element?

Chapter Organization is how the author chooses to separate and divide the book to tell the story.

There are 27 chapters in *X* a novel. Each chapter of the autobiography is divided into about one or two sections with drastic changes in setting. For example; on the first page of chapter three the setting is *On the bus, 1930*. After that scene is over and about three pages forward a new section starts with the setting titled, *Lansing, 1930*.

Why does it matter?

The author has created a nonlinear chapter organization for the reader. The book includes time jumps, one section of the chapter could start in a later year of Malcolm's life and then the next page, a new section could be his childhood years.

What's the impact on the reader?

Creating a nonlinear story plot is used to point out to the reader, cause and effects of actions within the characters. When a section of the chapter starts off in a time in Malcolm's life where he's running away, and the remainder of the book goes through Malcolm's life out of sequence. The author uses this tactic, where you can draw conclusions.

Chapter Three

On the Bus, 1940

The bus grows warm, with all the light through the windows. I shrug out of my jacket.

Lansing, 1930

A long time ago, when Papa was alive special. I was so small, four and five the long seat of the old black touring wheel. These were the greatest days, and me going to...

NARRATION

RELIABILITY

What's this element?

Narration is how the author chooses to tell a story. This also means they can make whomsoever is telling the story a reliable source or not.

An example in X a novel is, "We swing our hands between us. The words weighing on my mind are *Can't. Just. Nigger.*"

pg 148



Why does it matter?

Malcolm, the narrator, has become reliable at this point because he's truthfully speaking on his thoughts.

The author uses this tactic as a lure to also keep continue reading. Malcolm has now become like a close friend to the reader because he's explaining thoughts and emotions to us and no other character in the book. For example the author tells us when Malcolm thinks of college he only thinks he can't because of his race, which is something very deep that isn't shared aloud. Malcolm is with his friend Laura in this scene , but clearly never says "Can't. Just. Nigger," to her. At that exact moment the author is using narration to lure in the reader by making the main character a reliable source.

What's the impact on the reader?

His first person narration helps the reader to formulate an idea of what exactly is happening and thinking at the moment.

The quote "Can't. Just. Nigger," has made him lose all hope in himself since the day his teacher told him as an adolescent. This whole scene is a part that made me, being the reader, feel drive to continue because of the deep context of the narration.

DIALOGUE

What's this element?

Dialogue is what the author uses in a story to show a spoken conversation that could be with someone or even to a characters self.

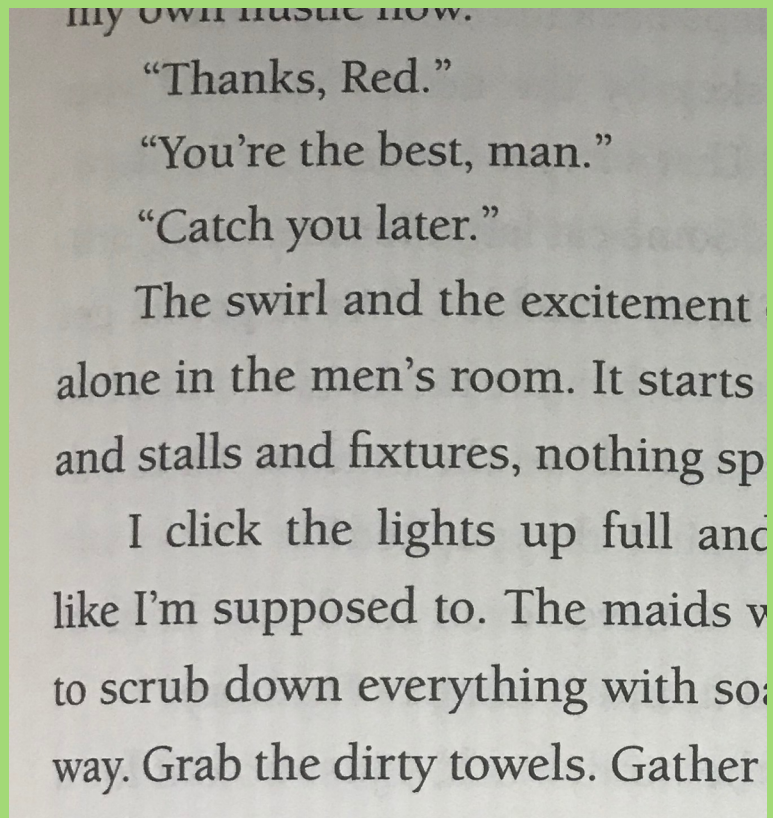
The author writes majority of the book with 20% dialogue. If there is a set of dialogue on a page it's short with about 1-10 words because the author doesn't write a lot in sentence length.

For example: on page 121 we see the author has only provided three short response lines of dialogue, with simple sentences such as:

"Thanks Red."

Why does it matter?

This stylistic choice affects the whole book because The author on pages uses this tactic to go into detail on the character's thoughts, actions, and setting details. On every page of the book there is more description than quote that involves the narrator's thoughts. This means the author isn't as focused on dialogue.



What's the impact on the reader?

Ilyasah Shabazz, has put plenty of detail in description and emotion from the narrator's point of view to make the reader feel connected like there in that person's shoes. The author is trying to make the reader develop a detailed scene of dialogue themselves possibly, while she provides context and emotion. If the author were to continuously giving quote it would leave the slightly leave the same feeling of the reader, but not as much because of characters relationships with one another.

MY EMULATION: DESTRUCTION OF A KID

Yourway High, 1997 ¹

"Man I told you not to go through with it now look--"

"Shhhh you're gonna get us caught" ³

I peer my head around the the big dumpster in the alley. I notice we're the only ones stuck out here at this time of night. Chad isn't helping to formulate any type of plan, he's a wuss I remember, so it's up to me. His hot breath blowing in my ear isn't helping either. I notice in fact it's making me more anxious than I already am. I just upset one of the toughest guys in town. Whats was I thinking-*you don't*do that type of thing to the man you've heard stories about since a child that circles around everyone's neighborhood in the Bronx.

"Okay Chad were gonna have to make a run for it."

"I don't know man"

Chad was skeptical about the idea of running back, but it was only down the street and around the corner. I counted 3...2...1... in my head and we both made a run for it.

"I see them, I see them, get them."

Mike's home, 1993 ¹

Mom had just passed away, and now all of a sudden everyone always makes me feel awkward, the stares and looks people give

me aren't the same. My neighbors and even my closest middle school friends. Maybe it has to do with the fact that I'm the one who found her lying on the floor. Now a days in school I'm the kid you should feel sorry for, because his mother passed. ²

Dad was wise and warned me about this, he told me how people would start to stare and nothing will be the same.

In fact nothing was truly the same, Dad has been acting extremely weird. He can't seem to hold his temper and he seems to be after everyone, like they all crossed him. One day I saw him in the bathroom up to something I wasn't absolutely sure what it was, or maybe I did I just didn't want to be. I saw drugs.

Footnotes:

Footnote 1: I used element one, Chapter organization, very similar to the way the author did in "X." To do this I created one chapter thats divided into two sections, one set a few years ahead first and then one going back. This scene i created reminds me of the first chapter of X because it opens with struggle and in the next scene we see struggle was already there. I was really trying to make the reader feel the need to continue reading and by being confused in the suspense.

Footnote 2: To portray a reliable narrator I made sure in the second scene we saw a lot of the main character talk about his personal feelings. I was hoping that from this openness the character was giving the reader would feel more for the character and see him as the good character. I also wanted the reader to feel as though he was reliable by gaining information only they now know.

Footnote 3: I chose to put as little dialogue in my short story as possible. Ilyssa Shabazz only gave about three words in discussion. I made sure that majority of text came from the narrators thoughts rather than his words. This was because I wanted to reader to really grasp the imagery of this scene in there head then rather hearing a back and forth discussion.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Ilysa Shabazz a WestChester County resident is not only the amazing author of the autobiography about Malcolm X, but is his daughter. She's a courageous activist, community organizer, motivational speaker, and author. Her books have a lot to do with her father, an inspirational figure she feels connected with. She's authored *Malcolm Little* and *Growing up*.

Kennedy Fields is a young lady who lives in Philadelphia. She's in high school and attends Science Leadership Academy. She's not only someone who enjoys creating fictional stories, but also has another hobby, dance. She's always enjoyed the idea of writing stories but rarely takes the time to do so. "I'm always interested in creating storylines or stories because I'm someone who loves talking and creating things for people to enjoy."

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