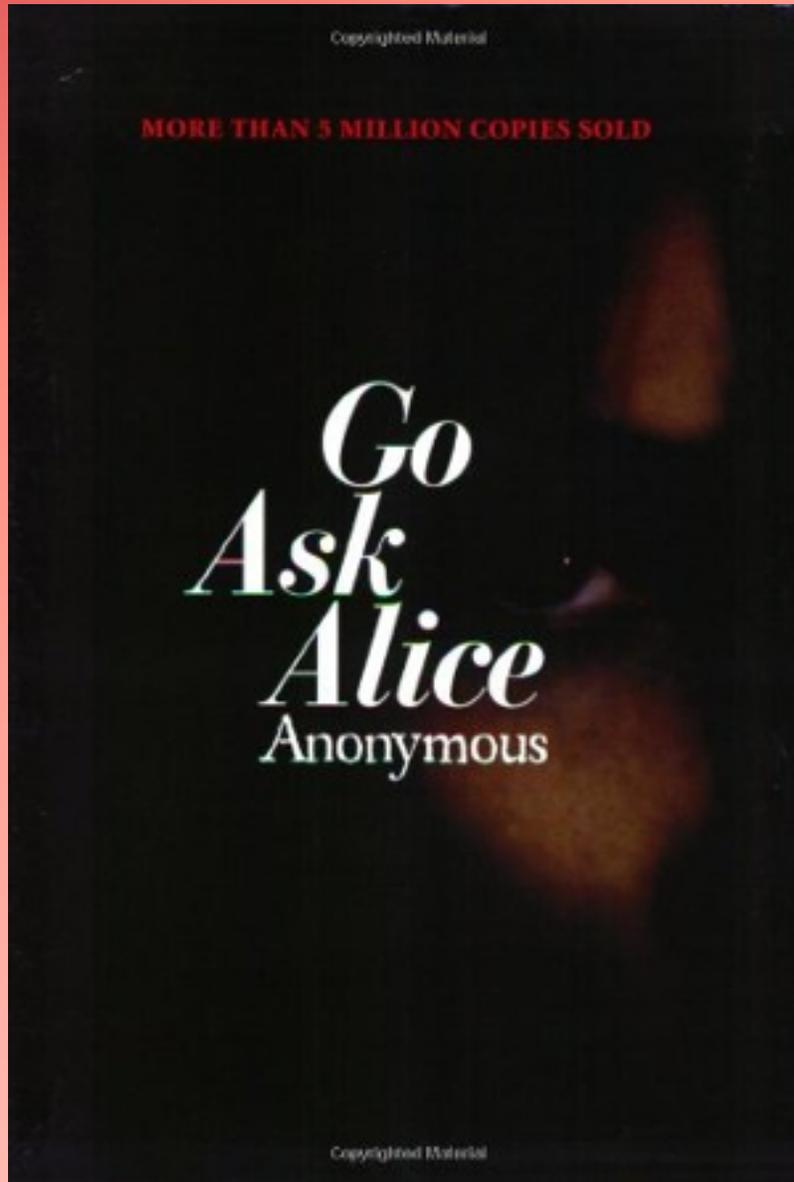


Emulation Handbook



Go Ask Alice / Anonymous *by Salvatori Camarote*

Go Ask Alice is a book filled with the diary entries from a unnamed girl whose life changed entirely when she was introduced to drugs. Throughout the story the diary entries of her back and forth fight of keeping clean of drugs rages on. The girl's real name is never revealed throughout the story and is written in chronological order. The only part of the story that is not a diary entry is the epilogue, explaining what happened after she decided not to write anymore.

Narration Style

What's this element?

The narration lets us understand that the author is unreliable and that the diary is meant only for herself, and in the end she says it's what kept her sane. She writes to the diary in first person while sometimes referring to it as it's own person. All of these entries are real, but at certain points where things get really bad for her the entries don't have dates and come in shorter bursts. The author writes each entry with her thoughts, emotions, and imagery. The author is writing to share their personal feelings with themselves.

"Yesterday I bought this diary because I thought at last I'd have something wonderful and great and worthwhile to say, something so personal that I wouldn't be able to share it with another living person, only myself. Now like everything else in my life, it has become so much nothing." (1)

Why does it matter?

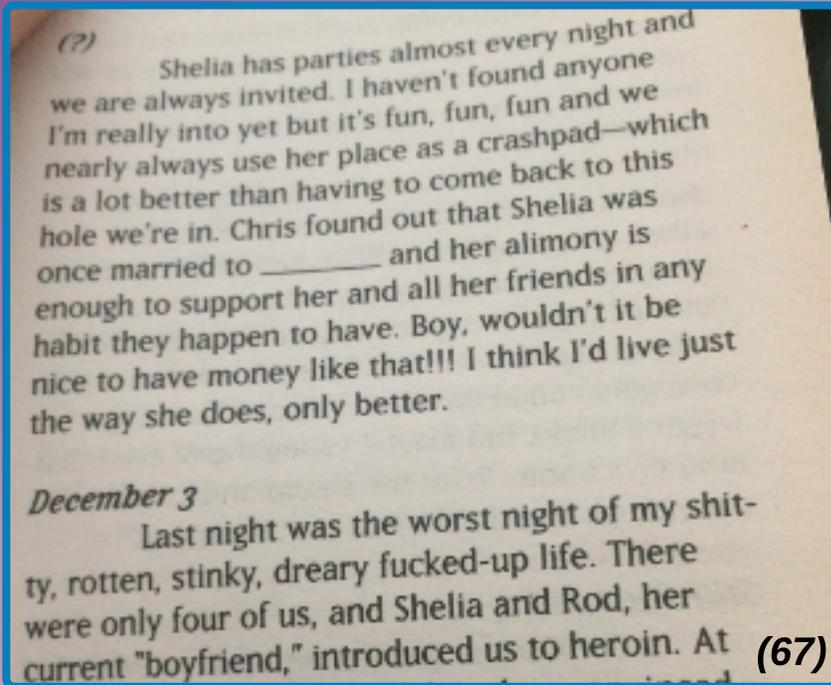
The narration is important because this story isn't meant to be written for an audience. The author is not writing for anybody else, she's writing to and for herself. If this was a story about a girl who went on drug trips and had sex it would be completely different than this diary format. With a story perspective it wouldn't be as impactful, as this story where it's not intended to be entertaining, it's meant to be real. Without this narration style, we don't become as attached to the characters.

What's the impact on the reader?

The narration style makes us feel sorry for her. We can only read what she's saying. Everything already happened and we can't help her. Whenever she goes clean you feel hopeful for her and when she breaks her clean streak, it makes the reader worried about what might happen next. It shows us the reality of how helpless the author really is throughout the story.

"I shall thank you always for sharing my tears and heartaches and my struggles and strifes, and my joy and happinesses. It's all been good in its own special way, I guess. See ya." (184)

Plot Sequence/ Time Jumps



What's this element?

Considering the book is written as a diary, there are often time jumps between entries, varying between days and weeks. Because of the diary format, the plot is linear with the events written in the order they happened. The combination of the linear plot and time jumps prevents us from knowing what happens in between entries. Whenever something bad happened to the main character, there would often be a lot of undated entries, leaving the reader with no information about how much time passed between each entry.

Why does it matter?

If the book skipped entries and focused on only the horrible things that happened to the main character, we would never know what her life was like before she was hooked onto drugs. If it's not written in order it's not as impactful, and when the linear plot sequence is used the reader is able to relate and connect more. It's as if they were writing down moments that occurred throughout their day when something important happens. The author uses these entries to build up false hope that connects to the narration. We believe in the author through the entries that she is getting better and will become clean, but then are disappointed as suddenly everything changes.

What's the impact on the reader?

When reading the book the time jumps leave us wondering what exactly happened. Most of the time the main character informs us of the major points, but there is always little to no explanation. It adds a layer of confusion mixed with curiousness. I think the strongest area to support this is the time from her babysitting to going into the hospital. The tone change is quick leading us to believe whatever happened was really bad, because she just starts seeing things, leaving the reader to question how this happened.

Sentence Narration

January 11

Our family and Chris spent the weekend in the mountains. It was everything that it possibly could have been! Dad borrowed the cabin from someone he works with and after we'd found out how to turn on the water and the furnace and everything it was really great. It snowed during the night and we all had to take turns shoveling out the car, but it was really lovely. Dad says he's going to borrow or rent the cabin often. It makes a wonderful weekend retreat. It's strange how he can always get off when he really feels he has to. (81)

What's this element?

The main character uses narration to describe her emotions and the people and places surrounding it. The book is a girl's diary, with every entry talking about something that happened, meaning there's never any dialogue unless the writer is quoting someone. The entries vary between different amounts of emotion and descriptions. This allows us to understand what the main character is going through with her battle to become drug free.

Why does it matter?

The main character's entries are how the story is told. We don't know every single detail that happens to her daily. All the reader ever knows is the narrations of her day she puts in the journals. This is important because this is how we get information, descriptions, and her emotions. This format also causes a lack of dialogue, with the only use of it being when the main character is quoting someone. This book could've been written in first person based off the entries, however by using the real format it gives the reader a better image of the characters and story.

What's the impact on the reader?

The girl's story makes the readers feel sorry for her, as we go through the story knowing everything has already happened in real life. This makes the main character seem even more helpless. The narration gives the only insight into the main character's emotions and surroundings. This is how the reader is meant to understand the main character, so they can sympathize with her. Throughout the story the reader is wondering when does the battle against drugs end for the girl? What happens to the girl at the end? Sometimes we are left with little to no explanation of what happens to her. One entry she'll be clean and the next she'll be in the hospital seeing things that aren't really there. The narration allows us to see the end of her writing, but then a second narrator gives us an exposition explaining what the future had in store for the main character.

My Emulation:

May 12

Today was amazing. Rebecca and I talked a lot in math. After school we even went to Checkers and ate together. Rebecca loves art, she told me this after I asked her about the doodles she was drawing on a napkin. Her drawings are so detailed and amazing! Rebecca even has her own car, so next weekend she's going to pick me up and we're going to spend a day in New York!

May 14

Rebecca and I hung out at her house today. I was a little worried on the way over there because she kept getting distracted while driving. I would have to tell her every time the light turned green because she kept texting. I'd like to break her nasty habit, but it is a lower priority.

May 16

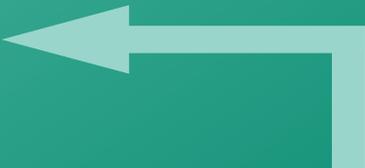
One more day until New York! Rebecca picked me up this morning on my way to school and we laughed the whole way. She kept swerving and laughing as we drove and she pretended it was a rollercoaster! At first I was a bit angry and told her to stop, but she just grabbed my hand and told me we'd be fine. After constant pestering, I joined her in her laughs and the imaginary rollercoaster ride. I can't wait for tomorrow. I've only been to New York City once when I was little. All I remembered is the bright colorful signs and screens. Although, my favorite place of all was the M&M factory. Hundreds of colored chocolate candies everywhere. I can't wait!

May 17

Rebecca just texted me she's here. I can't wait to get there! I'm glad I can bring you with me. I can't wait to write about everything that happens. This excitement is killing me!



The first element is the narration style of descriptions and emotions. This element is what provides the reader the characters emotions and describes the scenes for them. I was hoping to give the reader a few examples of how the character feels and writes so any change is noticed. I also tried to give the reader context to each entry within the entry with descriptions.



I tried to create the fact that the character would lie to themselves and wasn't the most reliable. I wanted to use this element to make the reader feel disappointed and worried by the character's choices.

Emulation Continued:

(?)

I don't know where I am. Rebecca's gone, my stuff is gone, everything is gone, except this diary.

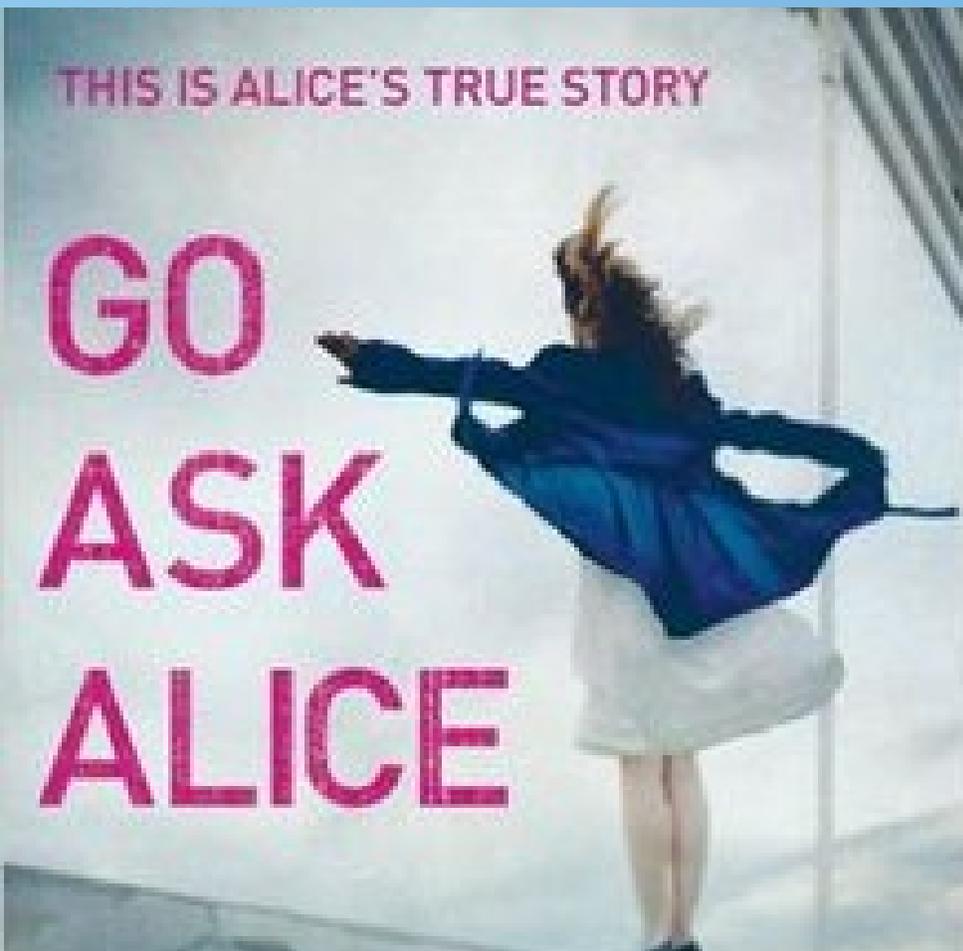
(?)

I'm at a police station, I can't stay focused. I feel like the walls are just closing in around me. I just want to go home.

May 24

It feels like I've been gone for a month. Rebecca is still gone. I don't even know where to start. Everything was just a blur. I can't remember anything except being alone. That is, other than having you.

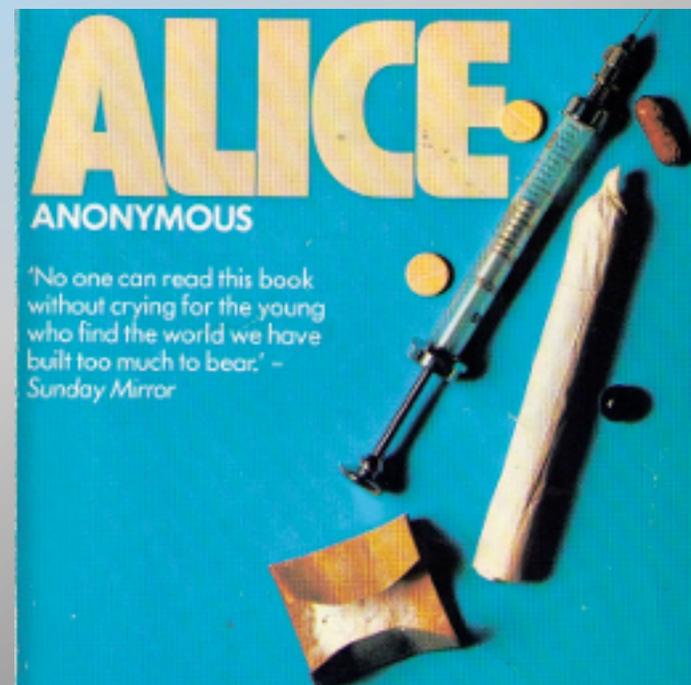
I tried to use the dates in a efficient and dramatic way. However, it's much harder to do this in a shorter amount of text because the writer builds up their personality and you see it turn bad slowly. The most impactful scenes are when the dates are missing and we have to figure out what happened to the main character. I tried to do this with my scene by having something go wrong followed by little to no explanation. This is supposed to make the reader curious and shocked by the dramatic shift or change in the story that's not the norm.



About The Authors

The author of Go Ask Alice is anonymous, even though the entire book is from their perspective. The only information the reader knows about the author is what they wrote in their diary entries, and that three weeks after they stopped writing they died of overdose. The diary was released to provide insight into the world we live in, and the horrors of it. The book changed the names, dates, places and certain events written due to the wishes of those concerned. The true author however is a writer named Beatrice Sparks, who was a youth counselor that produces “real diaries” of troubled teens.

Salvatori Camarote is a student and reader who goes to Science Leadership Academy. Up until third grade, Sal didn't enjoy reading. However, during third grade he read a book called the Sea of Monsters by Rick Riordan. This introduced him into all the adventures and creativity that went into these books. His introduction of reading led him onto larger interest of science-fiction, fantasy and realistic fiction books. Sal had discovered a few series of interest; Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, Lorien Legacies, and many other large series of books. Eventually Sal became stumped and out of interesting book to read, until he found Go Ask Alice. It was a book so drastically different than those he read before. He immediately became fascinated about it.



There are a few reasons why I did not mention that the real author was Beatrice Sparks. There is the true reason, which is I didn't know until I googled the author and found out about Beatrice Sparks as I was finishing up this handbook. However, the author doesn't want the reader to know its fake. It's advertised as real. The book was also made it 1971, before the Internet. Meaning any kid or adult who read the book then had no reason to believe it fake other than their own doubts.

- Sal C