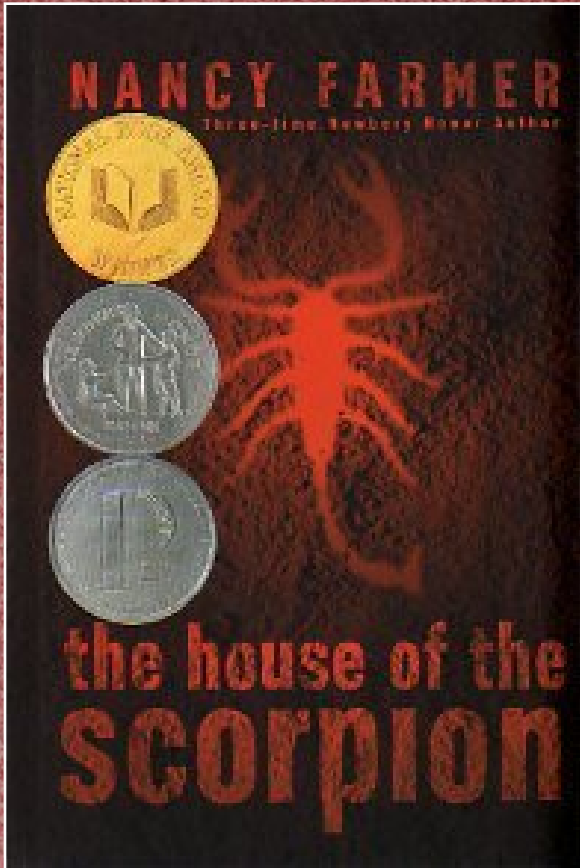


Emulation Handbook

The House of the Scorpion / Nancy Farmer

by William Flenner



Living in a little house in the poppy fields is all Matteo Alacrán(Matt) has ever known until the he meets the power consuming Alacráns (known as the House of the Scorpion). Matt soon Matt discovers he is a clone of El Patrón, a powerful drug lord who rules over a land known as Opium: a country in between the U.S.A and Aztlán(formerly Mexico). Matt lives with El Patrón's family(The Alacráns) who despise him, except for El Patrón who loves him. As Matt grows up , he searches the reason behind his very existence and for why he is who he is.

The House of The Scorpion has received awards such as the John Newbery Medal and the National Book Award for young people's Literature.

"An inspiring tale of friendship, survival, hope, and transcendence"

-Kirkus, STARRED REVIEW

(Seen on the back cover)

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Component #1: Point-Of-View and its Impact

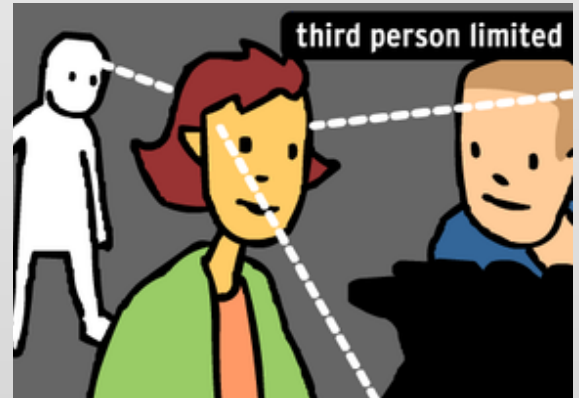
“But it wasn't all right. Something about the food, the heat, the light was wrong and the man didn't know what it was. Very quickly over half of them died. There were only fifteen now, and Eduardo felt a cold lump in the stomach. If he failed he would be sent to the Farms, and then what will become of Anna and the children and his father who was so old?”

(Page 3).

Component #1: Point-Of-View and its Impact

What's this element?

Here the author, Nancy Farmer, is expressing the fearful mood of this quote through Eduardo's thoughts which the author can read from the third person view. We [the readers] know that the author is describing this in the 3rd person because the author did not write Eduardo's thoughts in italics like in other books that are written in the first person and it would have quotation marks before and after Eduardo's thoughts. Also in the quote it says: "...Eduardo felt a cold lump in his stomach." where if it were written in the first person it would be written as "...I felt a cold lump in my stomach.". Looking for "I" and "my" are methods of identifying first person writing.



Why does it matter?

The quote is from the first chapter so this is important to the story because it is introducing us to the cells - that are being grown by Eduardo - who will become the main character Matteo Alacrán. In the quote the cells almost died and based off of Eduardo's, fear of the cells dying and his punishment for it, we know that Matt is not only important as the main character to the reader he is also of importance to the other characters in the book.

What's the impact on the reader?

The element of this quote is Eduardo's fear. Eduardo's fear impacts the mood of the story to be intense so that when the reader reads this part s/he will feel Eduardo's fear and will feel concerned for what happens to Eduardo and the cells. We can tell that Eduardo is worried because the metaphor used in the quote: "... he felt a cold lump in his stomach." We can also conclude that he is worried for his family, because in the quote it says "...and then what will become of...". This means that Eduardo does not know what will happen to them, but we can guess that it means something bad would happen, based on the effect Eduardo's fear has on reader. In addition we can guess that the Farms is a bad place because it is inferred in Eduardo's mood. The author's use of this element is so that the reader would have a stronger connection with the character in the book emotionally.

Component #2: Plot Sequence

“So Eduardo began to worry again. And for a month everything went well. The day came when he implanted the tiny embryos in the brood cows.”

(Page 3).

What's this element?

In this part of the story the author is briefly explaining the cells growth into an embryo and it is showing that the book's whole plot sequence is linear.

Why does it matter?

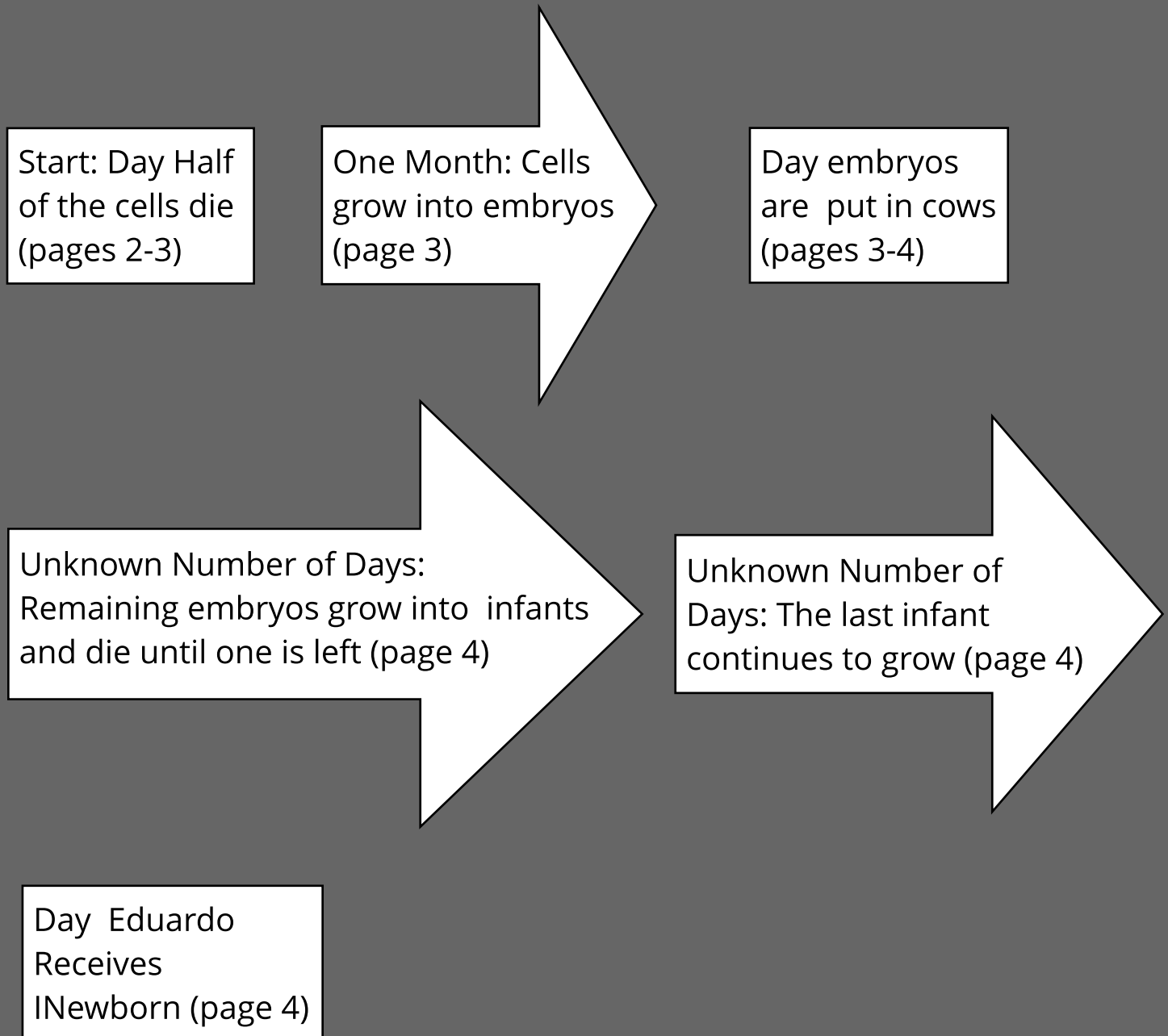
This is important to the story because it is describing the main character's growth. It is telling the reader what the plot sequence is going to be like throughout the book, and that the author is speeding things along and skipping over the unimportant parts, such as all the details of the cells growing into an embryo, to keep the story from dragging along. This is the author's way of keeping the reader's interest.

What's the impact on the reader?

This quote is telling the reader what the book's plot sequence is and that there will be more quotes like it that are sped up and are described briefly, which will come later in the story. This element is keeping the reader from being bored from the book dragging along and from losing interest. So this effect keeps the reader involved in the story. Also, this part of the story also tells the reader a quick overview of what's going on in a certain part of the chapter. This quote, specifically, tells the reader that it went from trouble of the cells dying to the cell successively growing. This makes the reader go from nervous to relieved and calm. Overall, short overviews of a part of the plot can quickly change what a reader may feel about the story while reading it.

Component #2: Plot sequence

Plot Sequence of Chapter 1



Component #3 Narration and What the Reader Knows



“Property of the Alacrán Estate? That’s us. It doesn’t make sense,” said Steven.

“What’s going on?” came a voice that Matt hadn’t heard before. A large, fierce looking man burst into the room. Steven immediately straightened up. Emilia and even María looked alarmed.

“We found a kid[Matteo Alacrán] in the poppy fields, Father,” said Steven. He 's hurt himself, and I thought the doctor...the doctor--”

(Page 23)

Background Information:

After Matt Jumped out of the shattered window to go play with Steven, Emilia, and María, Matt falls on broken glass. The three take Matt to The House of The Scorpion(the Alacrán's house) to help remove the glass.

Component #3 Narration and What the Reader Knows

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"What's going on?" came a voice that Matt hadn't heard before. A large, fierce looking man burst into the room. Steven immediately straightened up. Emilia and even María looked alarmed.

"We found a kid[Matteo Alacrán] in the poppy fields, Father," said Steven. He 's hurt himself, and I thought the doctor...the doctor--" (Page 23)

What's this element?

The author is using the narration to put the reader in Matt's shoes. We know this because in the middle of the excerpt it says "...came a voice that Matt hadn't heard before." The author only tells what everything is through what Matt already knows and the new knowledge that Matt gains, like in the quote it says that there is new person's voice but we don't know who it is because Matt doesn't know who it is. We can also say that the book is written in present tense. We know that because in the quote, the narrated portion is sounds like it is in the present tense. If the book was narrated from the author's point of view she may have revealed some information about something that may come later in the plot.

Why does it matter?

The narration is the form of how the story is being told, such as who is the narrator, what point-of-view the story is told in, what tense the story is is told in, and how much information is given to the reader. In *The House of the Scorpion* the narrator is Matt, the story is 3rd-person limited, the story is present tense. This informs us that the narrator can see things only from Matt's perspective, meaning the narrator can't see and describe everything. This is the author's way of creating suspense.

What's the impact on the reader?

When the author uses Matt to narrate the story we feel like we are more deeply connected with Matt and that we are Matt. Because the book is written in the first-person, Matt's emotions and feelings are read as if it were coming straight from us. So this makes the reader react to every feeling because the way Matt's feelings are described are so close to how we experience those exact feelings in real life. Every time Matt gets nervous we start to become afraid. Every time Matt gets hurt we shudder and recoil. Also, by using Matt to narrate the story, the author doesn't spoil anything for the reader. Because of this each new thing that Matt learns is new to the reader. When Matt learns about something new but doesn't know much about it, the reader wants to know more so the reader wants more.

My Emulation: A Rough Road for Two

There it is, thought Jason excitedly. But his excitement did not last long. Jason looked down, then quickly looked away. His body jerked violently. He felt stone give way beneath his foot.

"Augh!"

Jason jumped and grabbed onto a higher part, the rocky face. His body slammed against jagged rock. Immediately he felt the point of a rough ledge drive into his cheek. Sharp pain spread through Jason like wild fire. Jason felt like he was being stabbed over a thousand times. A cold stream of liquid trickled down his face. He wished that the sound of nearby rocks falling down below him was only his imagination. Jason struggled to catch his breath, he slowly turned his face towards the heavens. He could see a the edge of a mesa's flat surface, about thirty feet away from him. His eyelids shut.

You have to Jason, you must!

Jason let the world re-enter his vision. He looked over his shoulder to see his luggage. "Don't worry," said Jason. "We'll get there."

But the luggage said nothing. And how could it? Thought Jason. It was fast asleep. Jason looked back towards the mesa and resumed his climbing.

"Finally." Jason whispered. He dared not wake up his luggage.

Jason pulled himself over a rocky ledge. He could see a flat rocky surface before him. When regained his footing, he looked across the rocky plain to the glittering field of silver masses that laid beyond the base mountain.

"There it is," He told the load on his back. "El Paso." Jason turned himself halfway around to let the luggage see. Jason glanced over his shoulder. It's eyes were still closed.

Jason walked to the edge of the plain and looked down. Below was a steep rocky slope, just like the previous one that took him hours to climb.

Long, painful hours, Jason thought.

At the base of the mountain was a tan field filled with dried plants that lied between the city and the mountain. How many miles the field was, Jason did not know, what he did know was that it was long.

Jason sighed. "I have a long journey ahead. We have a long journey ahead." Jason said to the sleeping luggage. "Com'on Carlos, mí hermano, it's time to climb."

Annotations

Annotation #1

“Immediately he felt the point of a rough ledge drive into his cheek. Sharp pain spread through Jason like wild fire. Jason felt like he was being stabbed over a thousand times...He wished that the sound of nearby rocks falling down below him was only his imagination. Jason struggled to catch his breath...”

For my first element I analyzed the impact of the main character’s emotions through a third person-limited perspective, on the reader. When I looked at page 3 of the House of the Scorpion, I looked at how Eduardo’s fear of failure created a sense of fear and anxiety in the reader. In the story that I created, I made the point-of-view in third person-limited, where the things are seen and narrated from Jason’s perspective, just like in The House of the Scorpion where things are described in Matt’s perspective. In the quote above I wanted to recreate the emotional impact on the reader that was in page three of The House of the Scorpion. In the quote above is a scene where Jason jumps higher up the face of the mountain to save himself from falling. I described the pain that Jason went through when he landed to make in detail, to make the reader shudder at thought, as a reaction to reading.

Annotation #2

“Jason looked back towards the rocky spire and resumed his climbing. “Finally.”...Jason pulled himself over a rocky ledge. He could see a flat rocky surface before him. When regained his footing, he looked across the rocky plain.”

The second element I chose to look at the plot sequence of The House of the Scorpion. I analyzed a portion of page 3 where it describes a brief overview of the events of the embryos’ growth. “So Eduardo began to worry again. And for a month everything went well. The day came when he implanted the tiny embryos in the brood cows.” The author uses this to skip over the unimportant details-like what every day of the month where “...everything went well...”-to make the story well paced. Sometimes when books have parts that are skipped around they often go to flash backs making a disoriented order. The quote from the book does not have any flashbacks, only fast forwards. This tells us that the plot sequence is linear. In quote I have above I have both the end of the first section-Jason climbing to the top of the mountain, and the beginning of the second section-Jason arriving at a flat plane which is the mountain's top. This shows that some time in plot was skipped over, just like in The House of the Scorpion quote. This is showing that the plot sequence is not disorderly with lots of flashbacks mixed with flash forwards Instead linear and orderly.

Annotation #3

“There it is, thought Jason excitedly.”

The Final element I reviewed was how the author narrated The House of the Scorpion. The whole story (with the exception of the first chapter) is narrated by the author though Matt’s perspective. This means that the point-of-view and the narration is in the third-person, limited. In this perspective, not everything is revealed to the narrator. Everything we know about the story comes from what the main character knows. In the quote above I shows Jason’s thoughts and the following paragraph shows the point of view of the narrator (to be third-person, limited). Because my story is narrated from Jason’s point of view, the reader

About The Authors



Nancy Farmer is an American writer and author for young-adult fiction, science fiction, and fantasy books and children's literature. Born on July 7, 1941 in Phoenix Arizona, attended to Reed College, in Oregon where she earned her B.A. in 1963 and later went to the University of California to study chemistry and entomology. She joined the Peace Corps in 1963 and worked in Zimbabwe and Mozambique on ways of controlling the tsetse fly. She studied at the University of Zimbabwe where she met Harold Farmer. They got married to each other week later. She currently lives with her husband in Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona which became the setting for *The House of the Scorpion*. Nancy Farmer has written three Newbery Honor books which are *A Girl Named Disaster*, *The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm*, and *The House of the Scorpion*.

William Flenner is a high school sophomore at Science Leadership Academy in Center City Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He enjoys reading science fiction and fantasy books. He has written some fan fiction and script writing for his digital film making class in school, in the past. He writes his stories with suspense and mystery, uses his imagination to create a variety of fiction elements, and likes to make the reader think about the story while reading. He also has an interest in visual arts, film making, history, and a passion for soccer.



**Thank
You!**