

BY THE BESTSELLING



AUTHOR OF TIMEQUAKE

# Emulation Handbook

KURT

VONNEGUT

CAT'S

CRADLE

"A FREE-WHEELING VEHICLE...AN  
UNFORGETTABLE RIDE!"

-The New York Times

Short paragraph describing the basic plot.

# Component #1 - Made-Up Vocab

## What's this element?

The author is inventing words to describe the ideals of the religion of the book - Bokononism. Like any specific practice, the religion has ideas and terminology that is unique to it. So inventing the words makes it feel more legitimate.

## Why does it matter?

The people who live on this secluded island see themselves as somewhat superior to the rest of the world, so it makes sense that they would also have these fancy, invented words to describe how they relate to each other. They are very concerned with making sure that connections between people are authentic and not fake, which seems especially important when you are stuck with just a handful of people on a distant island. For example, the first time “duprass” is used, it is in reference to...

## What's the impact on the reader?

When the reader first encounters these new words, it's like any time they see new vocabulary. With this situation, however, there's an added level because it makes the reader feel like a rookie or novice in the new religion they're learning about. There's no way to look up these words in a dictionary, so the reader just has to keep going and figure them out via context. As the words begin to make sense, it means that the reader is also being initiated into the religion a bit. In this way, the words serve as a kind of passport to understanding of what is going on with this strange religion. The fact that the made-up words are all italicized by the author draws even more attention to them, putting a spotlight on their importance for the reader to notice.

# [Name Component #1 here]

## **What's this element?**

Non-Linear Narration is when...

An example of when the author does this is when...

## **Why does it matter?**

This stylistic choice affects the whole book because...

## **What's the impact on the reader?**

In This book, non-linear narration influences the reader by...

# [Name Component #2 here]

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## **What's the impact on the reader?**

In This book, non-linear narration influences the reader by...

# My emulation: *Face on Your Keyboard*

The kids all walked into the room. They looked a little blurry around the edges.

“Hello class,” I said. Blank stares. “We’re going to go over the benchmark today.” More blank stares. I projected the instructions on the board. Three components, due next Friday. They groaned.

“You’re making a *krumple!*” They pleaded with me. I was not familiar with that vocabulary. They explained: three other teachers had assigned benchmarks due the same day.

I was wary about changing the deadline. While I sat there thinking, they began to tell stories about benchmarks past.

“But Ms. George, if you leave the deadline, we’re all going to get *fadoodled!*” they said.

What?

“It’s when you’re trying to *radoodle*, but you don’t make it. You wake up with your face on your keyboard the next morning, lots of random letters typed into the canvas submission box. *Fadoodled!*”

## Annotation #1 - A funny Title

I used Vonnegut’s title style, where I wrote a short title that related to the content of the scene. My first title was actually something different -- “benchmark discoveries” -- but I knew that wasn’t very good. While I was writing the scene, I came up with the image of face-planting on your keyboard because you fell asleep while doing work. That seemed funnier to me, so I made it the title. My hope is that the reader is first confused by the image -- how exactly did your face get on the keyboard? They then know to look for that moment in the scene. It’s a kind of clue.

Annotation #2: I also **made up a set of vocabulary** that was used in the scene.

*Fadoodle* - when you fall asleep at your laptop trying to complete that night’s work

*Krumple* - when teachers have assigned all their benchmarks to be due the same day

*Radoodle* - when you successfully stay up all night getting the work done.

Like Vonnegut, I kept all of these vocabulary words related to the same topic, and belonging to the same group of people. My goal was to make the student seem a little bit odd, but also loveable, which was emphasized by the reaction of the teacher.

# About The Authors

**Kurt Vonnegut** is [up to 100 words about him go here.]

**Firstname Last Name** is... [up to 100 words about YOU go here. Probably want to mention where you go to school, what your literary interests are!]

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