

SARAH

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

DESSEN



SAINT ANYTHING

Saint
Anything is a coming of age story about a young teenager, Sydney, who deals with the problems of high school as well as the changes that happen in her home. Sydney's older brother, Peyton, is bad news and is always in trouble.

The latest of Peyton's disasters was hitting a young boy and paralyzing him while driving drunk, Because of this Sydney has to deal with moving to a new school and "becoming a different person". The book follows her through this journey.

Component #1 - Repetition

What's this element?

The author is using this text to add to the element of theme. This phrase, or something similar to it, is used on several different pages. This helps to reinforce and help comprehend how the narrator, Sydney, feels about what's been going on. Because this idea is repeated constantly, it emphasizes that Sydney is displeased with her brother and doesn't understand why her mother isn't. She feels like no one is seeing the incident for what it really is. This leads to her feeling incapable of expressing her feelings about the accident with the people around her.

Why does it matter?

This element makes it easier for the reader to understand Sydney's thoughts about the accident because she doesn't really speak about it to any of her relatives or even her friends. When her parents or friends ask, she feels like she can't be honest about the way she feels. This tells the reader that Sydney is very secretive as well.

What's the impact on the reader?

This makes the reader feel like they know more about Sydney than the people closest to her. Because the book is told in first person, the reader only knows what Sydney says or thinks. This gives the reader a leg up on the other character's in the book because they can't read her mind.

I just wonder. That was the moment I realized my mom would never be able to really hold Peyton responsible for what he'd done. Their bond was too tight, too tangled, for her to see reason. Like anyone deserved to be hit by a car and paralyzed. Like he was asking for it. For days afterward, I had trouble even looking at her.

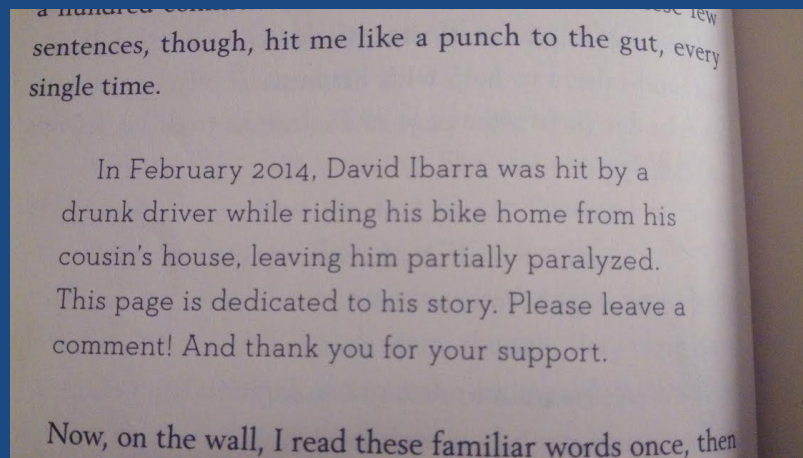
Component #2 - Point of View

What's this element?

The author is including information outside of what the other thinks or feels. This is a piece of text taken from David Ibarra's blog. The narrator, Sydney, reads this post constantly. This text also incorporates the repetition element because it is on page 70 as well as 71. This part is only in a different font than everything else, which makes it stand out.

Why does it matter?

This is important because it includes the perspective of the victims, people that had not been represented in the book so far. Sydney always thought about how they were and felt bad for them, the book never really included something from the Ibarra's themselves.



What's the impact on the reader?

This allows the reader to feel more empathetic to the Ibarra's. Because the story is told in first person, Sydney and her family were the only one's mentioned for a while. It only included how the incident affected their family so it was refreshing to read about how it affected the other family as well.

Component #3 - Dialogue

What's this element?

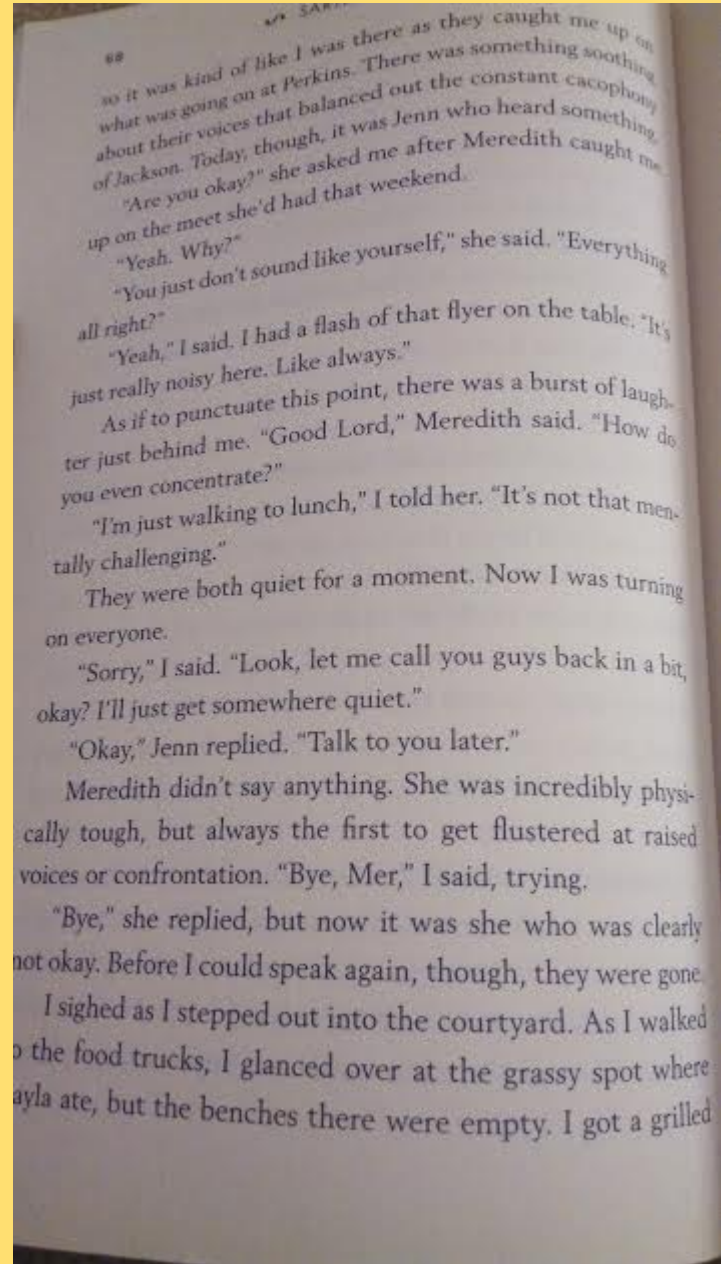
In this scene of the book, the author is using a lot of dialogue. This is understandable though because this scene is happening over the phone. This section is more than 90% dialogue between the people involved.

Why does it matter?

This element is important because it moves the plot along much faster than Sydney's normal narration would. Because her friends get to speak for themselves, the reader is exposed to more than what Sydney says or thinks about them. This element also helps with character building and helps the reader make connections about the relationship of the people involved.

What's the impact on the reader?

This element makes the reader feel as though, they know the characters personally. Because the reader is reading what the characters are saying for themselves, without relying on the commentary of Sydney, they get a better sense of how the characters actually feel. This also makes it easier for the reader to relate to the text.



My emulation: *The Studying Frenzy*

I knew I needed to get in all the studying I could get so right after school, I went directly home. Yes, cramming, I'm aware that isn't the best method of retaining information. But hey, old habits, die hard. I had a massive history exam the next day so I had planned to commit my entire evening to studying. **I was going to pass that test.** I was certain of ridding myself of distractions. Just as I reached to turn my phone off, my best friend, Tamara calls. She immediately begins with questions, "Monica, where were you after school? I was looking all over for you."

"I needed to go straight home," I answered. I hoped that she'd understand and leave me alone; but I should've known better than that.

"Well you could've at least said something to me." I knew she would say something like this. And from what she said, I concluded that I wouldn't be getting off the phone anytime soon. "Oh my God, guess what?"

"I've got to go," I lied. I couldn't tell her that I needed to study. That's embarrassing. That would mean that I cared about school and my grades. **I needed to pass this test** but first I needed to get off of the phone.

"But I have a story to tell you. Monica, I don't know what's gotten into you, but you haven't been yourself lately." She was reluctant, as always. Tamara and I rarely argued but when we did, they lasted days, and I didn't have that kind of time.

I used repetition to emphasize a main point or idea. This is something that the narrator thinks but feels like they cannot express with the people around them.

Sarah Dessen, the author of *Saint Anything*, incorporates the element of dialogue often. In my story, I, too, used a lot of dialogue to advance the story and to help develop the characters.

My emulation: *The Studying Frenzy Cont.*

To avoid any arguments, I decided I'd just have to study with her on the phone. I was determined to pass this test so I let her tell her story so I'd get to study. It'd be a win-win situation. "Let's try this again, guess what?"

"What?" I had given in.

"You know what? My mom's calling. I'll talk to you later" I turned from my phone to my desktop. I opened my notes and began studying. I opened the textbook to the unit we were learning about. The text read,

In 1715 the English Parliament enacted a law requiring any group of twelve or more people gathered to disturb the peace to disperse within one hour.

The more I read, the more certain I was that I was going to pass this test.

I used repetition to emphasize a main point or idea. This is something that the narrator thinks but feels like they cannot express with the people around them.

Like Saint Anything, I wrote my story in first person of a main character but also included a section that is from the point of view of a character, other than the narrator. By doing this, I'm creating a more rounded story that involves more than one side. This will make it easier for the reader to comprehend the conflict and determine how they feel about what's been happening.

About The Authors

Sarah Dessen:

Sarah Dessen is an American author who lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Dessen developed a love of books at a very young age. Dessen states that her goal in writing her book is for the reader to resonate with them, like she did with books she read as a child. Dessen has won a series of awards including; *The Shorty Award for Best Author* and *Goodreads Choice Awards' Best Young Adult Fiction*. In her free time, Dessen teaches writing at several universities and works in her garden with her daughter, Sasha Clementine, and husband, Jay Earl Marks



Afi Koffi

Afi Koffi is a young writer that was born in West Philadelphia in November of 2000. She attended Andrew Hamilton Elementary, Julia R. Masterman Middle, and is currently, as of 2016, a sophomore at Science Leadership Academy. Since she was very young, she loved stories. Koffi enjoyed reading them, listen to them, and telling them. What came later in life was her love for writing stories and sharing her stories and writing. Koffi is currently unpublished, but this doesn't stop her from creating her own private works and projects. For example, she adores writing short stories and also takes a lot of pride in her poetry.

