



A Walk in the Woods/ Bill Bryson

A man is planning on hiking the Appalachian trail but he doesn't really have any experience with hiking. He goes into a state of research and luckily finds an old friend is is willing to go on that trail with him. He goes on about his fear of bears, journey and talks about how the trail is getting slowly removed one piece at a time. He switches between his first hand journey of the trail and into an omniscient state and talks about the actions going on all over.

Element #1- Point of View Change

What's this element?

The author is changing how the book is being told, it goes from first person to first person omniscient. So we have our narrator talk about his journey through the trail, encounters, and dialogue. Then we have a break and the narrator goes into this omniscient place where he places down facts from his research. It's not just plain facts, he goes on stuff that is going on to the trail and adds his own thoughts and opinion to it as well.

Why does it matter?

This element is important because not only does it just entertain the reader it also provides a lot of knowledge and information about the trail. It is like a 2-in-1 package and the author really makes it work together. Like the narrator states, the trail is not something really getting talked about and is progressively getting smaller due to these companies cutting down the forest and industrializing it so he uses this to inform people.

What's the impact on the reader?

It makes the reader feel the journey taken by the protagonist but also raises awareness of the trail slowly being ruined and taken apart by these companies. He also highlights how it is an experience where you can only feel through going on a trail like this and that people really should try it in their lifetime

Quote

(67)- "About 240 million acres of America's forest are owned by the government. The bulk of this - 191 million acres, spread over 155 parcels of land - is held by the US Forest Service under the designations of National Forests, National Grasslands, and National Recreation Areas. All this sounds soothingly untrampled and ecological, but in fact a great deal of Forest Service land is designated 'multiple use', which is generously interpreted to allow any number of boisterous activities."

He goes on about the Forest Service for a few more pages then goes right into this.

(71)- "We fell into a simple routine. Each morning we rose at first light, shivering and rubbing arms, made coffee, broke camp, ate a couple of fistfuls of raisins, and set off into the silent woods. We would walk walk from about half past seven to four."

Element #2- Dialogue/Comical

Quote

(51)- "She's pretty ugly, isn't she?" he said with a big incongruous beam. I sought for tact. 'Well, only compared with other women.' Katz nodded thoughtfully, then fixed me with a sudden fearful look. 'You know what I look for in a female these days? A heartbeat and a full set of limbs.' I made a sympathetic expression. 'And that's just my starting point, you understand. I'm prepared to compromise on the limbs.'"

What's this element?

The author adds a comical sense for the reader throughout the book and makes even the most dramatic and suspenseful scenes funny. He does this by either adding funny exchanges of dialogue or just making fun of the situation itself.

Why does it matter?

It is important to the book because it entertains the reader and gives the book life. This makes it also appeal to a younger audience and they are usually harder to please and entertain with a book. There are also a lot of facts in the book so this helps balance the seriousness and textbook style out with some comedy and jokes. Which is good to put a smile on the reader's face and boosts the morale of the reader.

What's the impact on the reader?

This element makes the reader feel more comfortable with the book. It gives the sense of looseness and makes it more entertaining.

Element #3- Commas and Adjective /Adverbs

What's this element?

The author is using a lot of commas and a lot of descriptive words. The first quote has 5 commas and the second quote has a massive amount of 12! That is a very high amount and the author uses those commas to include as many descriptions and adjectives/adverbs to paint that picture in your head.

Why does it matter?

This element is important because the hook is about an adventure the protagonist has on his walk throughout the woods. He has a lot to talk about but, you need to be able to see the right things. When explaining a vacation trip you usually just show pictures because that is one of the best ways to express a journey especially one that contains many sights.

What's the impact on the reader?

This element allows the reader to feel as if they were within the scene. Using these descriptive words allows the reader to paint a picture and almost be able to feel as if they were in the scene, whether it is the sight they are looking at, the sounds they listen to or even the smells they smell.

Quote

(133)- *"It occurred to me, not for the first time, how delightful, how truly delightful, it would be if MacKaye's original vision had been realized- if the shelters along the trail were proper hotels, with hot showers, individual bunk (with curtains for privacy and reading light, please), and a resident caretaker/cook who would keep a cheery fire dancing in the grate and invite us, any minute now, to take our places at a long long table for dinner of stew and dumpling, cornbread and, oh, let us say, peach cobbler."*

My Emulation: Running Past the Morning

I woke up a little too late. I quickly jumped out of bed, glanced at my wall clock in panic after reading that it is already 9:22, I'm late. Standing straight up brought me to a dizzy state, but I managed to fumble around for socks, underwear and shorts.

'Maciej, are you awake? You're going to be late, you still have to eat!'

I heard my mom yell from the kitchen with a kettle covering her voice.

'No mom, I'm still sleeping.'

I quickly replied to her as I tried to run to the bathroom, avoiding the dog toys scattered around the hallway, while also trying to apply deodorant. After getting in there and peeing, putting some clothes on so I'm not naked, fixing my hair, I finally make it out and as I'm halfway down the stairs I forget my shirt, great gotta go back up again. This time I come fully equipt,

'Why didn't you wake me up when you saw me still sleeping?'

I asked as I searched for my plate of food. The golden brown, fluffy, smothered in syrup pancakes, topped with bright, vibrant, and red strawberries, with some milk poured in my favorite cup.

It was game day, we had to go against the Academy Sabres. It was a championship game, there was a tie last time we meet in the season, 2-2. The day was nice for a game, chilly 63 degrees outside with no sun at all, just clouds. The year before we had won the championship but the year before that they had won, this is surely going to be an intense battle.

I chugged the milk as I finished my meal with a long, but subtle burp, which I already knew was going to receive a comment, wait for it,

'Maciej, what is wrong with you? Go burp somewhere else not over here where all the food is.'

I grab my socks, pull them down halfway, insert the slidable shinpad, roll the sock right back up, put the strap right around my calf, and tape around the ankle, grab the shoes and loosen the laces, slip the feet right into the stench, a smell so strong people within a 10 foot radius can smell without a problem, and laced up. Out the door I went.

Annotations of My Emulation

First Annotation

I used the first element midway throughout the story, when I talked about the championship game. I am basically backing out from the story midway through and fill the reader in with some facts. It puts some more pressure on the reader by letting them know a important event is going to happen and it just gives the reader some background knowledge since the story starts without letting the reader know everything.

Second Annotation

Element 2 was about the author incorporating dialogue that was very comical. I tried to emulate that by adding dialogue as well and adding some humor to it. The plan was to get the reader to chuckle or at least brighten the mood and to not only stick to regular descriptive text.

Third Annotation

I incorporated element 3 by adding a lot of commas and using those commas to add in adjectives and adverbs. This adds a lot more description and life to the sentences and allows the reader to be able to visualize the scene getting painted. It also gives the story more detail and depth then just saying "Woke up, ate breakfast, drove to a championship game." It breaks down time a little and goes slowly.

About The Authors

Original Author



Born William McGuire Bryson (Bill Bryson), in the state of Iowa. He has spent most of his adult life in Britain. As an author he wrote many great books, exploring the genre of travel, history, and science. Besides just being an author, Bill Bryson was also the chancellor of Durham University. He is also very much into traveling, he dropped out of college, to go around Europe and travel, hence the many pieces of literature about travel.

Emulation Author



Maciej Pokora is a 10th grader who attends Science Leadership Academy. Born in Poland, he later came to America and currently lives in Philadelphia, PA. He focuses on engineering as a career plan but enjoys to read books on the side when he can.