

Emulation Handbook



Musashi / Eiji Yoshikawa

The novel Musashi starts with the main character Takezo, that wakes up in a field after the battle of Sekigahara. After that event he tries to cross the border but while doing so he kills a guard and becomes an outlaw. Takezo then tries to go back to his village but fails because the village head wants him dead so he gets chased out and is constantly being hunted. Eventually he was found by a monk and was left to hang on a tree for days, but someone decides to let him down so he can escape. After he escapes he is found shortly after by the monk again but his punishment changes to being locked in a room for 3 years with nothing but books. When he finally comes out of his confinement he decides he is a new man and renames himself Musashi of Miyamoto.

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Narration

What's the impact on the reader?

This element makes the reader feel like they actually know what's going on in the book. If the reader couldn't get a proper view of the world in this book then it would be disastrous in the way that its written. It is obvious to the reader that the author's intention is to make sure he gives a clear personality to each character in the book. Through this method the author is able to make the reader feel like they are actually emotionally engaged into the book and not losing interest because they feel that the characters are not fleshed out enough.

"The 8 young samurai gave the impression of having practiced sword fighting all day." pg 108

"Desperation set in. Musashi could not bear the idea of leaving without accomplishing his objective. For his crown, he wanted a brilliant star of victory"pg 209

What's this element?

In the novel the author is using two types of narration styles that are both omniscient, meaning that the narrator in the book knows everything that is going on, but the narrator has two different ways of going about it. In the first quote the narrator is focusing on multiple people, in this case it is 8 young samurai. The second way the narrator does it is focusing on just 1 character. Usually the author only switches to the view of multiple people when they are about to directly interact with the main character. In the first quote above the 8 young samurai eventually go on to get into an altercation with the main character Musashi.

Why does it matter?

The fact that the narrator switches between the main character and characters that are about to be important or were important, is very important to the book. The reason for this is because the amount of characters in the book is higher than average and the narrator needs a way to keep track of them all without the reader getting confused. For example in the beginning of the story when the main character wakes up he meets another survivor and a little later they split but since he is one of the more important side characters in the book the narrator visits him later down the road. When the narrator eventually goes back to him the fact that the narrator is omniscient is very helpful when the book is trying to catch the reader up with the characters current story. Without the narrator being omniscient this would be impossible to do without ruining the flow of the book, and it fits in with the author's style perfectly.

Backstory

What's this element?

In novels one of the most important things is the setting. In this book the setting is especially important because unlike other books that are set in places that people can actually picture, this book is set in Japan during the 17th century which not many English speaking people decide to research for the purpose of reading a book, even though this book is meant for the Japanese. Although the book is meant for people who are native to Japan and some surrounding countries the author does a great job of explaining the setting through the use of backstory. In the first quote the author is using backstory to give the reader an idea of the geological features and in the second quote the author is giving us information about a character that we would not know otherwise and some context on how samurai are and how they act.

What's the impact on the reader?

When the author adds backstory it makes the reader feel like they're connected to the story. Without it, it would be a dull and boring. Since the story is about the life of a man the backstory also makes the reader feel like they share emotional pain with the main character.

Why does it matter?

Without the backstory in this book it would be seriously lacking because with it the author adds so much imagery to the novel. Also like what was said above the author uses backstory because the novel is about history and about somebody's life, a mediocre english author might say describe a place by just saying its name and one or two distinguishing features, but this author has to go into a lot more detail when it comes to writing backstory and sometimes the backstory in Musashi can take up twenty-five to fifty percent of a chapter.

"The old man's dignity had grown with the years, until now he resembled nothing so much as a majestic crane, while at the same time retaining the appearance and manner of the well-bred samurai." pg. 187

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Dialogue

What's this element?

The last book based element is dialogue. In Musashi the author likes to write long paragraphs of just text with little to no actual description of scenes, he just lets the characters dialogue take you threw a lot of the book and then when characters are done talking he adds a paragraph or paragraphs of description. For example this segment "The Yagyu dojo could quite appropriately be described as grand. Situated in the outer grounds of the castle, it had been rebuilt around the time when air of indestructibility." pg 196.

What's the impact on the reader?

Like what was said a little bit above the reader is able to have an emotional investment into the characters in the book. In real life when you listen to someone talk for a long time you feel like you know them a bit better. It is the same thing for this book, because of the amount of dialogue the reader feels like they know the characters personally.

Why does it matter?

The dialogue is a very important aspect in the book. The reason being is because there is a vast amount of characters in the book. The author intended for the reader to be able to learn how characters in the book feel and what type of personality they have.

"Yes,
When he
read the letter."

"And?"

"He just handed it back to me."

"He didn't look at the stem."

"Not that I noticed."

"He didn't examine it or say anything about it?"

"No."

pg 196

"The Yagyu dojo could quite appropriately be described as grand. Situated in the outer grounds of the castle, it had been rebuilt around the time when air of indestructibility" pg 196

My Emulation: Pickets Charge

The town of Gettysburg was peaceful until July of 1864. Gettysburg is filled with luscious farms with no urban development. The fact that the town was inside of grasslands made it the perfect target for the Confederate army. The only high ground available lied at Little round top, Cemetery hill and Big round top.

Meade was entering camp with everyone expecting some sort of news. He started walking into the commander's tent where all his eager lieutenants were also waiting for what Meade would predict.

"What's the plan sir?" Asked one of the lieutenants.

"The plan is to wait," said Meade with a firm voice. "Go on and open up the map." The lieutenant listens to the order and grabs the map reluctantly with a frown on his face as he knows one of the Generals famous "plans" is about to be spoken

"Halt all the artillery fire and wait for a charge I know it's coming" Meade says as he draws battle formations on the map.

General Robert E. Lee was the leader of the Confederate army in Gettysburg. The Confederate army in Gettysburg was tired and they are on the unions flank. Lee ` was talking to Picket which is one of his lieutenants

"Picket what's the plan" said Lee

"The artillery has stopped I would assume there out of ammo we should do an infantry rush"

"But what if it's just a fake? " Asked Lee

"It is a gamble but if it works we might possibly win the battle and maybe even gain momentum for the war."

Later that day Pickett's gamble might have worked out if it wasn't for the fact that stopping the artillery was inside of Meade's fool proof plan.

Annotation #1

For narration I'm switching between Gen. Meade and Gen. Lee so the reader can know both characters before the climax of the story. It also impacts the story by showing the two sides of the growing conflict that are taking place in the story. This element is marked in bold.

Annotation #2

The second element is backstory and it takes place entirely in the opening paragraph. The main point of the backstory is for the reader to be able to understand what is going on in the story because like the book it takes place in a time period that people aren't familiar with. This element is marked by being underlined.

Annotation #3

The third and last element takes place near the end of the story and it is back and forth dialogue. The reason for this element is so the reader can get a quick glimpse of how the characters interact with each other in the story. It also makes the story more interesting than it would've been without the dialogue. This element is marked in red.

About The Authors



Eiji Yoshikawa is a famous Japanese historical Novelist that is know for his revisions of classic works. During his life he won many awards for his writings but unfortunately his life was cut short from cancer and he died at the age of 70.

James Adams is a student of the Philadelphia school district that is know for being that one tall guy. He has had many accomplisments in his life such as, that one time he slept 24 hours straight and that other time when he played basketball.