

WonderStruck by Brian Selznick

This story I am reading is told through pictures and words, but they are two separate tales.

WONDER STRUCK

Story through words in 1977: In Gunflint, Minnesota, a young boy named Ben lost his mother in a tragic car accident. His life went upside down after that. He was once death in one ear and became death in both when lightning strike his house while he was on the phone. He found information about his father he never met and ran away to find him in New York.

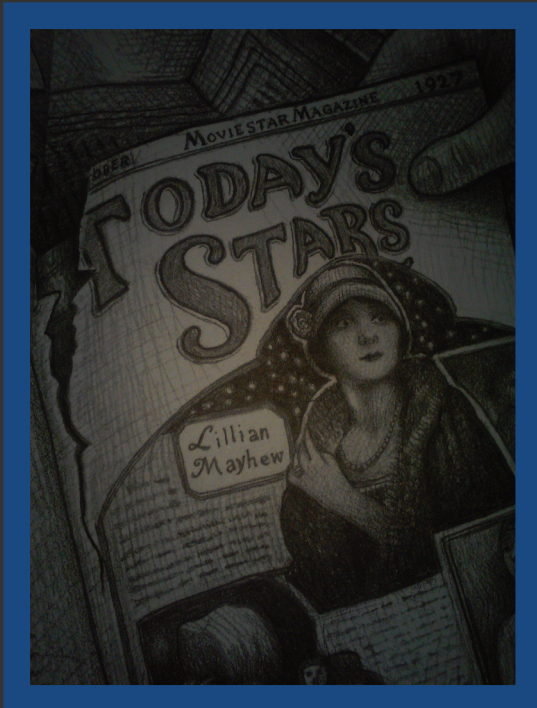
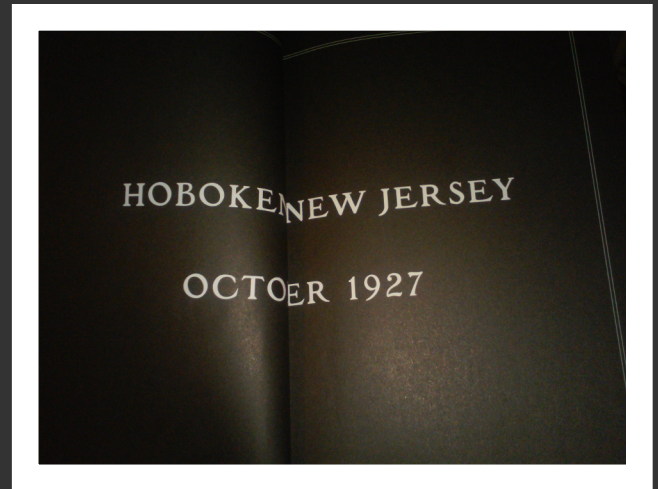
Story through pictures in 1927: A young girl named Rose was forced to stay in a small house with her father by her famous mother who thought New York was too dangerous for her since she was death in both ears. Rose's older brother lived in New York so she ran away to his apartment and found interest in the Museum's diorama. She stayed there with him until she was older enough to move out and start a job at the museum.

Connection: Rose is Ben's grandmother (his father's mom)

Book - Based

Non-Linear Organization

Non-Linear organization is when events are not told in chronological order or in specific pattern. An example of when the author does this is when he switches back and forth from the story told in words (1977) and through pictures (1927).



Why does it matter?

This stylistic choice affects the whole book because it either makes people confused or excited to know why these two stories are different or why they were told a certain way. It goes back & forth from the two years 1927 and 1977.

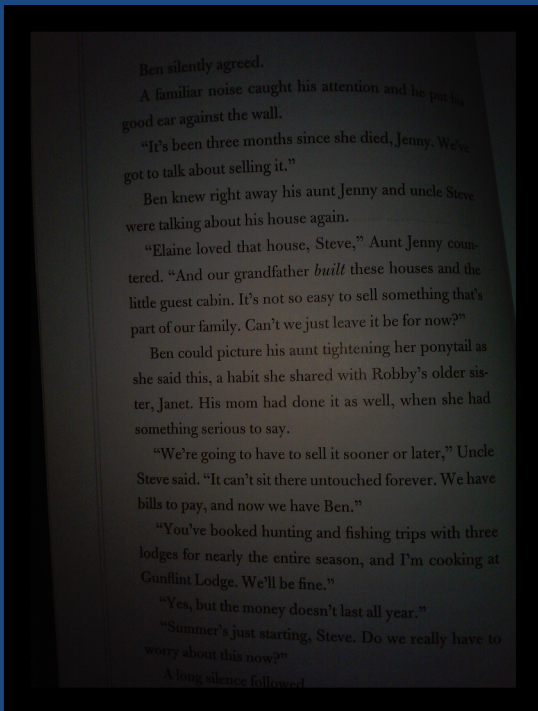
What's the impact on the reader?

In This book, non-linear organization influences the reader by making the reader feel like they need to pay attention to every detail in the pictures because everything isn't being told to you it's given to to you. The author doesn't give too much information about the two stories connecting, he just tell the reader through words or pictures.

Book - Based

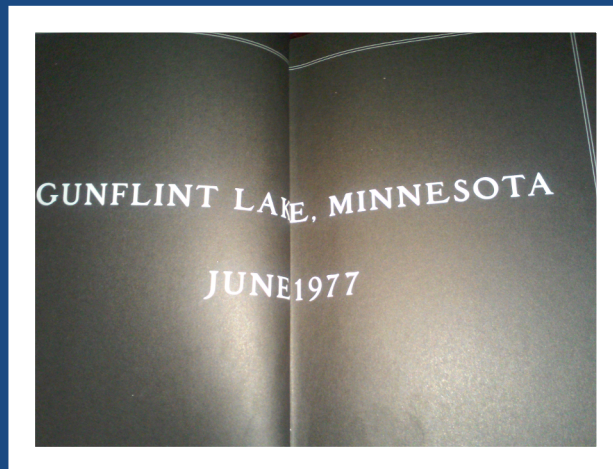
Limited Dialogue

Limited dialogue is when there isn't a lot of dialogue in a book. An example of when the author does this is when the characters communicated through writing notes to each other or using sign language. The author doesn't use a lot of dialogue because the main character became deaf in both ears and I noticed that the author is kind of trying to show the struggles he goes through trying to find his father. In the beginning of the story he was just deaf in one ear so there was a fair amount of dialogue, but once he became deaf in both then there was a decrease.



Why does it matter?

This stylistic choice affects the whole book because the description is on the heavy side of the settings and the characters.



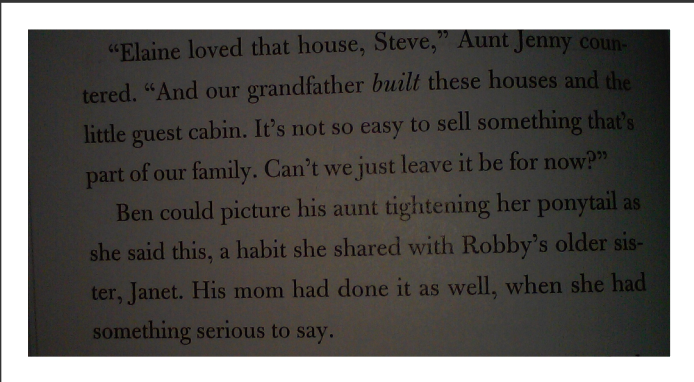
What's the impact on the reader?

In This book, limited dialogue influences the reader by giving us so much description of the characters surroundings that we, the readers, have no room to “fill in the blanks” with our imagination.

Sentence - Based

Sentence Length & Commas

The sentence length is how long or how many words a sentence has in it. An example of when the author does this is when he states "A nurse? Why did he need a nurse? Was this a hospital? How had he gotten here? ... He wanted to scream at her to speak up, to tell him what he was doing here, but he was too tired and his head hurt too much. He let her ease him back onto the pillow and he closed his eyes. (174)."

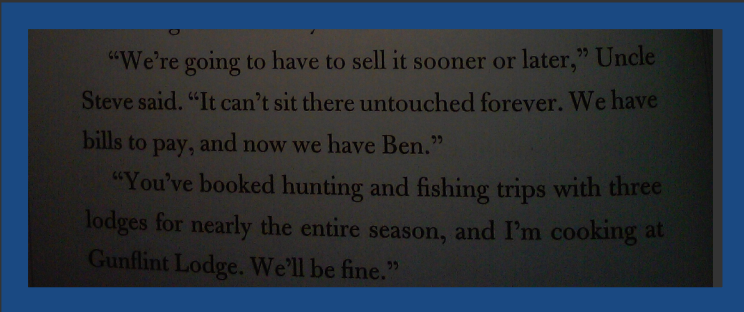


"Elaine loved that house, Steve," Aunt Jenny countered. "And our grandfather *built* these houses and the little guest cabin. It's not so easy to sell something that's part of our family. Can't we just leave it be for now?"

Ben could picture his aunt tightening her ponytail as she said this, a habit she shared with Robby's older sister, Janet. His mom had done it as well, when she had something serious to say.

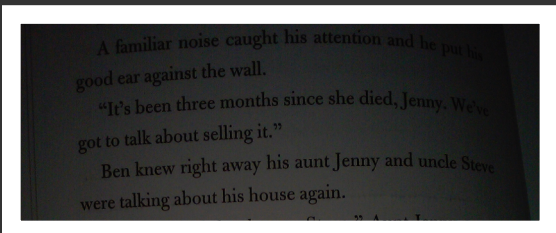
Why does it matter?

This stylistic choice affects the whole book because the main character, Ben, is deaf every little detail is important.



"We're going to have to sell it sooner or later," Uncle Steve said. "It can't sit there untouched forever. We have bills to pay, and now we have Ben."

"You've booked hunting and fishing trips with three lodges for nearly the entire season, and I'm cooking at Gunflint Lodge. We'll be fine."



A familiar noise caught his attention and he put his good ear against the wall.

"It's been three months since she died, Jenny. We've got to talk about selling it."

Ben knew right away his aunt Jenny and uncle Steve were talking about his house again.

What's the impact on the reader?

In This book, sentence length influences the reader by showing them the way deaf people kind of view the world. They pay attention to every detail in their life to understand things to their full potential. The commas made the readers pause or take quick break instead of speeding through the sentences.

My Emulation: Boys, I Think Not

Jade becoming a freshman in high school is accomplishment to not only her, but her family too. Little did they know that Jade wasn't ready for the boys that could potentially be the "love of her life". High School crushes seems to be the big deal, like they're the only reason you're in high school. Forget about learning, that's not what high school is for.

Jade was on her way back to class. She noticed this boy walking, looking more and more confused each time he looked around the halls . He had dark brown hair, greyish blue eyes that squinted at the room numbers above the classroom doors. He held a folded piece of paper looking at it every few seconds. She wonders if he's new to her middle school. Maybe she should talk to him before these other boy-crazy girls tries to. She walks towards him with a big smile. "Hey, are you lost?"

As Jade walked through her high school, she could feel the death stares of the upper classmen. She didn't feel powerless, like every other freshmen that walked with their heads slightly down looking at the marble floor. There was no need for that. Jade walking through the corridors confidently, gaining her more stares as she continues.

He looks up to her with his puzzled and concerned face. It turned into an embarrassed and shy face nodding to her question. Jade took the paper with creases from his hand and looked at the fine print. It was his schedule.

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She noticed that they were in the same classes. "Follow me, we have the same class right now." He didn't say a word and just followed.

Annotation #1

I created a non-linear story by telling two different stories. The first story is told in the regular text, which is of Jade experience in high school, and the other is in italics, which is of her experience in middle school.

Annotation #2

In my book dialogue wasn't used a lot because the main character was deaf and he communicated more through reading other people's lips or writing it down. So this impacted the readers in my story because a lot of description was given which lead to little or no confusion or what's happening in my story.

Annotation #3

When I noticed my sentences were long I tried cut it down by just adding commas in the appropriate places.

About The Authors

Brian Selznick

Brian Selznick, the oldest of three children of a Jewish family, was born and raised in East Brunswick Township, New York. When he graduated from Rhode Island School of Design, he worked for three years at Eeyore's Book for children while working on The Houdini Box. Selznick is an American illustrator and writer best known for illustrating children's books. He won the 2008 Caldecott Medal for U.S. picture book illustration recognizing The Invention of Hugo Cabret which was his long work as a writer.

Jowon Dorbor

Jowon Dorbor, the middle child of five children of a Liberian family, was born in St. Paul MN and when she was 2 she moved to Southwest Philadelphia. For elementary school she went to her local neighborhood school, for middle school she went to Young Scholars Charter school, and now for high school she is attending Science Leadership Academy. She use to write poetry and her own songs, but stopped for an unknown reason.