

# EMULATION HANDBOOK

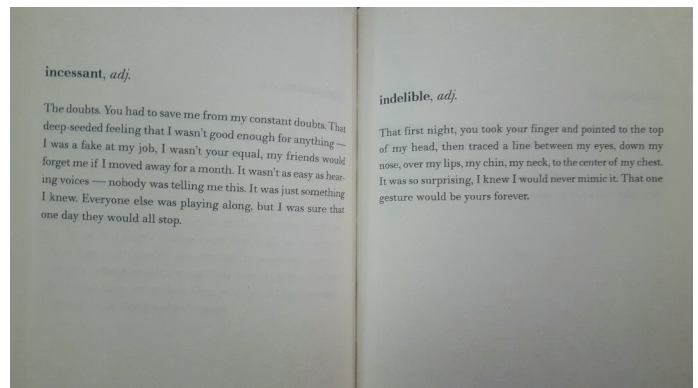
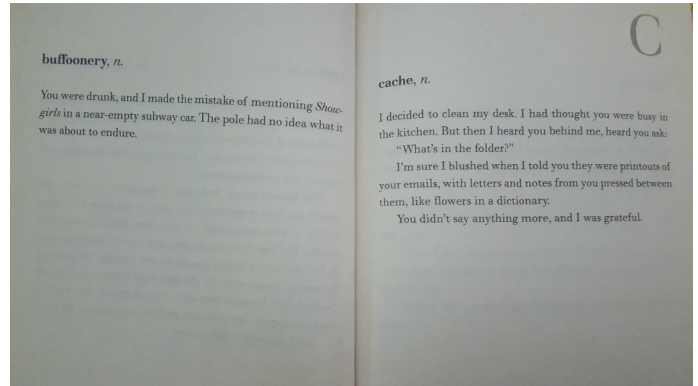


THROUGHOUT THE BOOK THE AUTHOR USES A DICTIONARY SET UP TO SHOW THE READER HOW THE NARRATOR FEELS ABOUT HIS GIRLFRIEND AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP. FOR EACH WORD THE NARRATOR WITH AN UNKNOWN IDENTITY REVEALS A NEW SHORT MEMORY OR HOW HE FELT AT A CERTAIN TIME WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND. THROUGH THESE ENTRIES HE REVEALS THE GOOD MOMENTS THAT THEY GO THROUGH AS WELL AS THE HARD TIMES WHEN INFIDELITY BECOMES A FACTOR IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP.

# COMPONENT #1 - BOOK LAYOUT

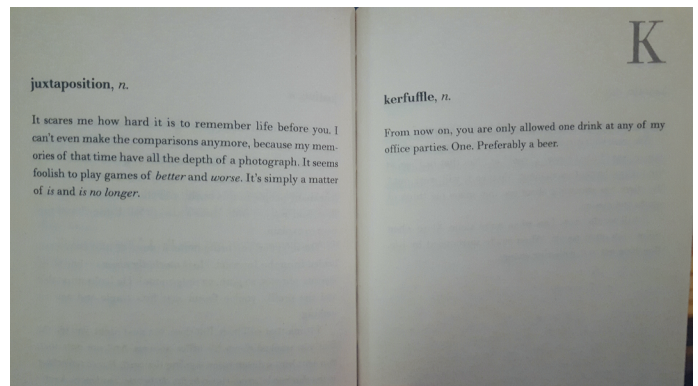
## WHAT'S THIS ELEMENT?

The author of the story takes a unique approach to his formatting of the book and writes it in the form of a dictionary. As seen on the right, each word in the dictionary has a short entry that depicts a couple's love life. As told by an unnamed narrator who reveals, random yet meaningful, memories and feelings about his relationship.



## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

By telling the story in short entries the author is able to make it unique and leaves the reader wanting to know more. It also engages the reader because it allows them to make connections between the journal entries and the word in the "dictionary".



## WHAT'S THE IMPACT ON THE READER?

When the reader first picks up the book it seems like a very easy piece of writing to understand and because of this it is almost not taken seriously. However, when the reader reads the book it turns out to be a really interesting story because of its unique formatting. Also, the length of the entries allows the reader do get absorbed in the story and not realize how much information they have been able to piece together. One could even say that the the short entries are like the small memories that make up a relationship in real life.

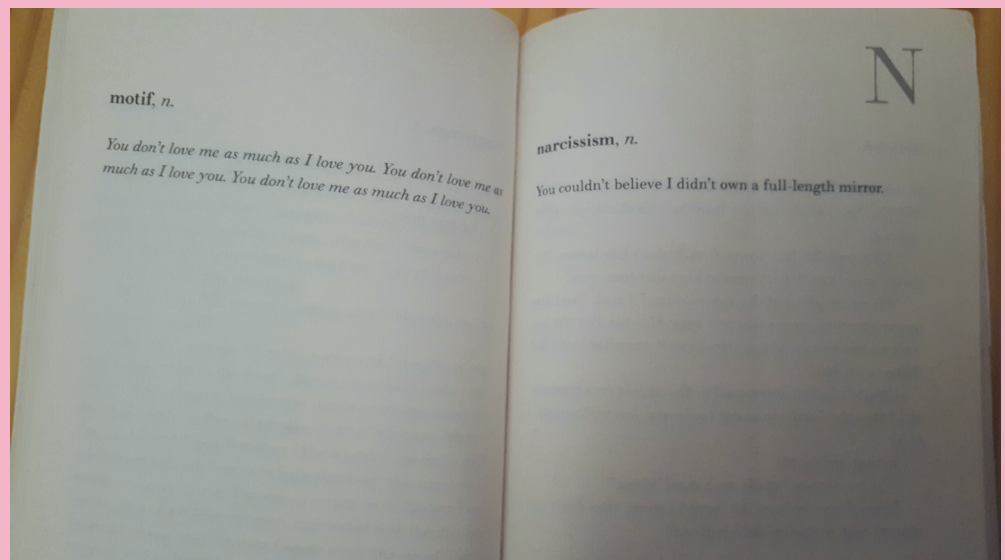
# COMPONENT #2 - NON-LINEAR NARRATION

## WHAT'S THIS ELEMENT?

Since the book is in a dictionary format the events presented are not in chronological order. The memories or feelings that are told by the narrator just match the meaning of the word in the “dictionary” but are not told in any particular order. Below is an example of the non-linear narration that is present throughout the book. The narrator goes from talking about loving his girlfriend in present tense to talking about the past.

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

This choice format the author chose affects the whole book because it makes the reader have to pay more attention to the text. It also really encourages the reader to analyze the feelings that the narrator goes through.



## WHAT'S THE IMPACT ON THE READER?

As mentioned earlier, the non-linear narration of the book makes the reader have to pay attention to all of the details given so that they can piece together the story. It also allows the reader to see how the narrator felt at different parts of the relationship in a non-conventional type of way.

# COMPONENT #3 - FANCY LANGUAGE

## WHAT'S THIS ELEMENT?

Overall the author does not use much fancy language throughout the story. With the exception of the words used for the dictionary entries. Some of the words that are chosen aren't extremely "fancy" but are not really a part of an average person's vocabulary. On the right is an example of this choice from the author. The word *livid* means angry, but instead of using that word the author chose to use *livid*.

*livid, adj.*

Fuck you for cheating on me. Fuck you for reducing it to the word *cheating*. As if this were a card game, and you sneaked a look at my hand. Who came up with the term *cheating*, anyway? A cheater, I imagine. Someone who thought *liar* was too harsh. Someone who thought *devastator* was too emotional. The same person who thought, oops, he'd gotten *caught with his hand in the cookie jar*. Fuck you. This isn't about slipping yourself an extra twenty dollars of Monopoly money. These are our lives. You went and broke our lives. You are so much worse than a cheater. You killed something. And you killed it when its back was turned.

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Much like the previous component, this one of "Fancy Language" makes the reader have to pay close attention to the writing and not just skim through it.

## WHAT'S THE IMPACT ON THE READER?

As the reader goes through the text they will find themselves being very engaged in the story. One of those reasons being because of the words that are a part of the dictionary. If the reader comes across a word that they do not know they will pay close attention to the entry and try to find the meaning of it.

# MY EMULATION : C O L D

## **Aghast** adj.

He'd never really been the type of person who was always calm, but instead, he was always on edge and had a very small patience for even the littlest things. Yet his dead body lay in front of me in the most peaceful way possible. I had almost gotten to the point where I convinced myself that he was only in a deep calm sleep. However, when I leaned in to hug him I could only feel cold lifeless flesh make contact with me, not the warm embrace from a father who hadn't seen his only daughter in forever.

## **Frantic** adj.

"Where am I? Why am I in the snow, alone? How did I get out from the inside of the car?" These thoughts just raced through my head as a pounding pain surged through my body and everything seemed to spin in circles just as everything went black.

## **Valiant** adj.

I was so scared of opening my eyes as memories from earlier that day rushed through my head. "She may wake up soon", whispered a soft voice, "I think we should wait until she asks for her dad to tell her the news." Just as the unknown voice said that I decided to open my eyes. I found myself looking at a stubby nurse with a soft smile on her face who greeted me by saying, "Hello darling-- "Where's my father?" The quick change of emotion on the nurse's face made me fear the worst making my stomach sink. "I'm so sorry sweetie, but your father has passed away." the nurse looked at me with a small frown and walked out as I felt hot tears form in my eyes and roll down my face.

## **Nostalgia** n.

We always seemed to bond the best during the winter when the air is light and crisp. Just driving to the top of the mountain while enjoying the snowy scenery and sipping warm hot chocolate. But something told me to enjoy this year's tradition because it wouldn't happen again.

## **Resentment** n.

Despite the accident I still find myself getting angry at the fact that he didn't pay enough attention to my problems. That he didn't hear me at night crying over something that was really beyond my control but could've been eased by his presence. Maybe that's just the way it was supposed to be. Maybe it was just preparation for me to be able to help and look after myself at a young age.

## **Yearning** n.

I mostly just wish that I could get at least one last hug to help mend the deep wounds in my heart.

### **Annotation #1 - dictionary format**

**Much like the book by David Levithan the emulation piece I wrote is in a dictionary format with entries that tell the story. This format is meant to be unique to the reader and get their attention.**

### **Annotation #2 - Non-linear Narration**

**I wrote my short story with non-linear narration to emulate David Levithan in a second way. I did this so that the reader would hopefully go through different feelings as they read it rather than have the typical build up of action. This type of narration also goes along with the format of the story being made up of dictionary entries.**

### **Annotation #3 - Fancy language**

**For my third and last way of emulating my author I used his style of using "fancy words" in my story. I only used the "fancy words" as the words in the dictionary. For example, aghast, not many people know what that means, but I was hoping the reader would use the dictionary entry to figure out what it means.**

# About The Authors

David Levithan is a young-adults fiction writer from New Jersey. He also is the founding editor of the PUSH imprints and an editorial director at Scholastic. Overall, he is proud of the books he has written and would much rather talk about them than himself.



Carolina Ortiz is a 10th grader at Science Leadership Academy in Philadelphia, PA. As a curious teenager with a passion for travel she loves reading books about adventure, but she believes that reading a love story once in a while isn't a bad idea.