

# A Series of Unfortunate Events

by Lemony Snicket



BOOK THE EIGHTH

*The Hostile Hospital*

# Plot

Violet, Klaus, and Sunny are three orphans continuously sought after by the villainous Count Olaf who wants the children's inheritance money. In this book, the children are trying to find a clue to the secret behind V.F.D and happen upon the Volunteers Fighting Disease, which they think is the solution. This leads them to Heimlich Hospital, where they happen upon old foes.

## Element #1

What is the author doing here?

In the beginning of the story, the author proceeds to tell the reader the two reasons why an author would end a sentence with "STOP". The first reason, says that if someone were writing a telegram, then "STOP" indicates the end of a sentence. The second is because he is warning the reader to stop reading the book and even going as far as to "shut this book immediately, drag it up a tall mountain, and throw it off the very top," (2). In the annotations, Violet, Klaus, and Sunny are actually using a telegram where it would seem appropriate to put "STOP" at the end of their sentences. In the annotations, Lemony actually admits to writing the story on a typewriter. This explains why there were "STOP"s when the characters weren't writing a telegram, but the "STOP"s are put in specific areas and not throughout the entire text on purpose for emphasis.

# Annotations (chronological order throughout this analysis)

“[...]shut this book immediately, drag it up a tall mountain, and throw it off the very top,” (2)

”Please reply at once STOP. We are in grave danger STOP.,” (17)

“[...], as I crouch here behind the Cathedral of the Alleged Virgin, a friend of mine is playing a sonata on the pipe organ, to calm me down and so the sounds of typewriter will not be heard by the worshipers sitting in the pews.” (37)

”With their other hands they clasped one another, and then, without another word, they leaped out of the window of the Heimlich Hospital  
STOP.” (245)

“At this point in the dreadful story I am writing, I must interrupt for a moment and describe something that happened to a good friend of mine, named Mr. Sirin,” (89)

“An associate of mine named William Congreve once wrote a very sad play that begins with the line ‘Music has charms to soothe a savage breast,’ a sentence here which means that if you are nervous or upset, you might listen to some music to calm you down or cheer you up,” (37).

“This is not a tale of Lemony Snicket. It is useless to tell the Snicket story, because it happened so long ago, and because there is nothing anybody can do about the way it turned out, so the only reason I could possibly have for jotting it down in the margins of these pages would be to make this book even more unpleasant, unnerving, and unbelievable than it already is,” (89).

## Why is it important to the book overall?

All “STOP.”s in the different sections of this book give off different vibes. In the beginning, the author is educating the reader on the proper etiquette when using a telegram. This makes sense to the reader when Violet, Klaus, and Sunny use the telegram in the first chapter. Another definition is affixed to the sinister warning that always comes at the beginning of every Series of Unfortunate Events book. This can be taken two ways. The reader can take the authors’ advice or take it as reverse psychology and keep reading the book, which seems to the reader, to be the intended purpose. The author is also being considerate acknowledging the unfortunate nature of the siblings’ lives before a reader starts to actually get into the book. When Lemony confesses that he is typing this story on a typewriter, the reader might have an “Aha!” moment and realize that the typewriting etiquette at the beginning of the story was because he was actually typing the story and not just because of the scene afterward that talks about Violet, Klaus, and Sunny sending a telegram to Mr. Poe. The author manipulated the telegram etiquette to mean different things.

## What does this element make the reader feel or know?

The locations that the author places the word “STOP.” are very noticeable to the reader. This stylistic choice used to start off the book also makes the reader feel like they just got the punchline of an inside joke, and can now go through the book with more knowledge than they started with unless they have

used a telegram before. The reader gets mentally prepared throughout the story to get discouraged about the books' events by its narrator, and hopes his forlorn description lives up to the hype. In some ways it's almost as if the author is daring the reader to finish his "dreadful" story and endure all of the sometimes depressing details. In the annotations towards the end of the story, the reader is hanging on the edge of their seat wondering what happens next.



# Element #2

## What is the author doing here?

The narration of this book is quite odd. It is opinionated, and states the way Lemony feels about things without giving his backstory away. These parts of the story are told in first person. However, when the actual story of Violet, Klaus, and Sunny is being told, it is told in third person limited. There are points in the story where the author will tell a story of his own and make himself a character in his own book along with Violet, Klaus, and Sunny. In the annotations, the story about Mr. Sirin ends up having nothing to do with the story of Violet, Klaus, and Sunny besides the fact that Mr. Sirin swallowed butterflies, and literally had butterflies in his stomach, and the Baudelaires had metaphorical butterflies in his stomach. These passages about Lemony Snicket's friends interrupt the otherwise mostly linear chronological order of this book. A small excerpt about Willima Congreve, as seen in the annotations, then somehow related back to the terrible song the Volunteers Fighting disease sang to patients in the hospital.

## Why is it important to the book overall?

The small excerpts revolving around Lemony Snicket's companions breaks up the story and makes you think about specific aspects of the situations the Baudelaires are

facings. In the annotations, the story about Mr. Sirin brought home how the Baudelaire at that exact moment in the story. In other words, make you look at certain parts of the story from a new angle, sometimes supporting and other times opposing.

**What does this element make the reader feel or know?**

With the author butting in every few seconds with a unique story or opinions, it forces the reader to pause from the actual story and absorb what Lemony Snicket is saying. Some readers could feel impatient to get back to the story considering, as stated in the annotations. The fact that he keeps bringing up that it's not his story makes the reader want to get back to the actual story while still wondering how his story could be any worse than Violet, Sunny, and Klaus'. With Lemony's odd friends, even weirder stories, and the fact that he can account for all thirteen book's worth of commentary on the series of unfortunate events that Violet, Sunny, and Klaus have been through makes the reader wonder "Who is this person, and how does he know what he know?"

# Element #3

## What is the author doing here?

One image is displayed two pages before chapter one, while the others are located on pages 21, 35, 54, 71, 89, 112, 121, 127, 151, 167, 189, , 213, 231, 257, and 261. The author puts these these images on the page where every new chapter starts except for chapter one. Also, there are three images that are put in the text that are not on a page where a new chapter begins. The images on the pages where a new chapter begins, excluding chapter 1, are used to foreshadow events happen in that chapter, or explain events happening at the start of that chapter. The images on pages 121 and 257 convey main events in the story. On page 261, the author has a ripped up page to the editor talking about how he is in hiding and needs to make sure the public reads the story of the Baudelaire orphans.

## Why is it important to the book overall?

The images give a visual representation of the text as well as clues to what us coming next in the story.

## What does this element make the reader feel or know?

The images because they are rare and often small on the page where a new chapter starts, makes them all the more obvious when scrolling to a new page. Seeing the sequence of events in the book, the reader picks up on the



fact that when a new chapter starts, the drawings can be used to infer what is going to happen in the chapter, what is happening at that moment, or something that has already happened. Therefore, the reader knows that each image has significance and isn't simply there to be pretty. Also, the black and white of the images makes it so that the reader does not get distracted with colors when flipping to a page with a drawing.



# Emulation Scene

## Chapter 1



There are some things that are just not meant for human eyes to see such as a Death Note, the secret Krabby Patty formula, that tiny font at the end of prescription drug commercials, and this book. Now you are probably wondering when this story will continue, but I am only delaying you, kind reader, from the onslaught of disheartenment.

This situation Leyla Belmont has found herself in is quite troubling, and reminds me of a dear friend of mine Dr. Raine Snider, who has a doctorate in literature and a master's in ornithology. One day she was riding her bike along the countryside, basking in the radiant rays of the sun when she happened upon a dead bird in the middle of the road. Completely abandoning her, because of her love of birds that spawned when she got a parakeet in the 2nd grade, she scooped up the bird, and sure enough, it was still dead. Maybe for a second, Dr. Raine Snider hoped that she received the power to grant a dead animal life again by holding it in her palms.

However, nothing had changed except for the fact the dead bird was now in her hands. She inspected it further, naively looking for any wound to treat, and then, she started crying. She cried at the utter hopelessness of the situation because the only thing she

could do about that birds' death was **NOTHING**. So she moved the bird into a path of leaves on the side of the road and rode away.

Sometimes, the best thing and the worst thing you can do is **NOTHING**, and **NOTHING** is exactly what Leyla Belmont was doing right now. Leyla Belmont wasn't thinking, reading, or breathing for that matter, because Leyla Belmont was dead. The drunk driver stood next to his dented car like a deer in headlights with strobing red and blue lights adorning his musty clothing. Leylas' mother held Leyla in her arms feeling absolutely helpless, and there was **NOTHING** he could do about.

## **Element #1 use in scene**

I used the word "**NOTHING**" more sparingly than Lemony Snicket used the word "**STOP.**" However, I feel like it could make the reader think about what nothing means and how severe of a state it is. It ties in with the helplessness of the two seperate stories I created.

## **Element #2 use in scene**

I made it so that the random story thrown into the actual story correlates theme wise. I added in my opinions how I imagined Lemony Snicket would, and created a character that has nothing to do with plot.

## **Element #3 use in scene**

The image of the body outlined in chalk, often thought to be related with a crime scene is put here to foreshadow the event that happens in the end of this scene because Leyla Belmont ends up dying.



## Lemony Snicket

Lemony Snicket is a mysterious writer, and the pen name of Daniel Handler. What is said about Snicket is often

not true, but what is said in the series is. He is one of 'the most difficult children's authors to capture and imprison', while Daniel Handler is an international bestselling author. Daniel Handler started using the Snicket pseudonym in 1988 when he started writing these books. His last book in the The Series of Unfortunate Events, landed up on the Today show on the day of its release on October 13, 2006. Some of his other works include The Beatrice Letters, Who Could That Be At This Hour?, and We Are Pirates. Handler currently resides in San Francisco, California.



## Ariana Flores

Ariana Flores is currently resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania , and goes to a school called Science Leadership Academy. She is interested in slam poetry and has already written over 25 songs. Ariana doesn't like thinking inside the box, and often ends up writing stories that are more

on the sad side without even realizing it until she is done writing a piece. Ariana looks up to authors such as Roald Dahl, Derek Landy, and Lemony Snicket. Their works inspire her to grow as a writer, and to not think you have to write like everyone else to be successful. Analyzing the texts of some of her favorite authors is definitely something she will be doing in the future because she has definitely grown from this experience.