

Kai Payton's Emulation Handbook



X a Novel by
Ilyasah Shabazz
with
Kekla Magoon

This is the story of Malcolm X. It goes from different time periods of his life to show how he became a man. It goes through his many trials and tribulations and shows how he made certain decisions based on his surroundings.

Impact // Malcolm's Life

What's this element?

Ilyasah Shabazz is trying to make you feel Malcolm's struggle with his constant conflict of his father not being there when he was growing up in her narration style. She does this by using Malcolm's thoughts to give you more room to think about how he feels about that situation. He tends to describe himself and the lifestyle he's living. This shows evidence to back up the claim that he's struggling with the loss of his father.

"I know with every beat in my living heart, that this fight has already started. I've been in the ring with him seventeen years and counting."

Why does it matter?

This gives more information on why Malcolm made the choices he did today. Malcolm stole stuff when he was growing up and when he had good opportunities he gave them up for drugs, drinking, and partying. His dreams were constantly laughed at while he was becoming older. He deals with all of this along with the worry of white people disliking him because of his skin color. The author gives many flashbacks that shows how Malcolm felt in certain situations.

What's the impact on the reader?

This element makes the reader begin to feel sympathetic for Malcolm because the author gives vivid scenes throughout the book such as when his mother got taken away from the family. Scenes like that give the reader a better understanding of why he did what he did throughout his life.

Descriptive Language

What's this element?

The author uses a lot of descriptive language to show the emotion in the scene. Each sentence helps paint that picture in your head to imagine the scene. In a way it connects you to the characters because of the little attention to detail that she puts in her sentences.

Why does it matter?

Writing this way is important because this book is like a biography. You have to implement those big changes of that person's life. The author gave little details that added a lot to the story such as saying Malcolm's mother started crying.

What's the impact on the reader?

These little parts that show attention to detail make the reader care more. Hearing stuff like Malcolm's mother crying makes you wonder how would I feel in this situation. That feeling makes you want to read more and find out what's next. The author always had moments like this throughout the story that attached you to the characters and made you want to find out what's going to happen next.

"In fact," the man went on, "we've already made arrangements for Malcolm here to stay with another family." My heart exploded in my chest. "No," Mom declared. "These are my children, and this is our home. Malcolm is staying with us." "That's no longer your decision." "You can't take him," Mom said "You can't." The man slapped his portfolio closed. The soft smack screamed finality. "The foster home is only half a mile away. He won't be far." Tears rolled down Mom's face. She was no match for him. (Pg. 38)

Sentence Variety

What's this Element?

The author uses sentence variety to get the point across in the story. It usually depends on what's happening in the story. Most of the sentences in the book are medium length. Even when there is short sentences, it is usually during a conversation between two people that are packed with information and details.

We used to be so happy. Even after died, when things got hard, nothing was so bad because we were together. But then things got harder, and the government social workers started coming by our house. Started pulling us apart, because there was never enough money. For food. For clothes. For the day-to-day necessities. (Pg. 14)

Why does it matter?

It's good to have sentence variety because the story jumps from many different types of dialogue. Such as conversations and thoughts from Malcolm. With a story like this it works because it's from a first person perspective so it shows a variation of different kinds of text.

What's the impact on the reader

The style of each sentence makes it easier for the reader to understand certain things. It wouldn't help the story if it was all long sentences because some conversations would be drawn out. It wouldn't be realistic to the reader if all the conversations had long sentences.

My Emulation: The Get Back

Shira always told us that this life was gonna be different. But everything she said became lies once the incident.

Philadelphia, PA 2002

The gang always threw crazy parties at Ma's house. She was always going out and staying at whoever drug dealer's house was paying her. She even did it at the house some nights. It tore me apart hearing that happen in the next room. I hated knowing what she was doing to help provide for us, I just wished we had a better life. Something like Tony's. Tony was my best friend and sort of my right hand man according to the gang. He always had the newest Air Force 1s and Polo Shirts, he was the best dressed fella in the city. If I had that life I wouldn't have had my finger on the trigger as many times as I did or the alcohol in my system every night to cope with the pain my mother gave me everynight. The parties we threw consisted of big bootys and fly dudes grinding on each other all night. It was another thing to get my mind off of my family's struggle.

New York, NY 2008

We came a long way from those days. I fell off with my own sister in the process. We always had our little fights but this one was the worst one we've had ever. It started as a little disagreement but then it got taken somewhere it didn't need to go. Shira started by saying, "you need to get your act together you've been on the run for damn near half your life." I told her, "I've been protecting us from everyone mom f*** over!" She cried saying, "Okay, so what you're still my brother I just what's best for you. Your girlfriend is the dirtiest girl you've met here she only uses you for your money." I came so close to hitting my own sister. The thoughts going through my head were terrible. Shira always told me she cared about me but if she did she wouldn't have let me get to this point in my life.**

I used Element #1 (Impact) by sharing a little background about Ed (the main character). I was trying to make the reader feel sympathetic for him. I want the reader to feel like no one should have to go through what he's going through.

I used Element #2 (Descriptive Language) by trying to add words to help you see/imagine the story in your head. Like you see the movie to the book in your head. I want the reader to take my words and make them a visual.

I used Element #3 (Sentence Variety) by having some short sentences and some medium to long sentences. I want the reader to think this is as realistic as possible since it's someone's life story. I don't want you to think this is unrealistic because that person wouldn't really talk that much in a conversation. I didn't want to add unnecessary words.

About The Authors

Ilyasah Shabazz , who was born on July 22, 1962 is the third daughter of Malcolm X. She is an author, community organizer , social activist, and a motivational speaker. Most of her recognition as an author came from a memoir titled "Growing Up X."



Kai Payton is a sophomore that attends Science Leadership Academy in Center City, Philadelphia, PA. He isn't really the fondest of books but if the topic is something he really enjoys he can get into it. Some topics he enjoys are dramas, thrillers, and mysteries.