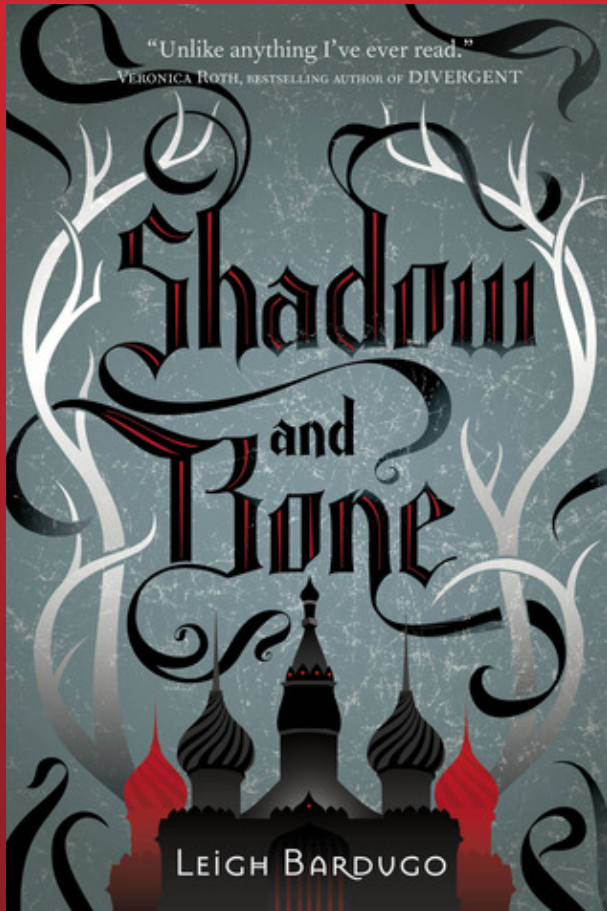


About My Book



Basic Plot:

Alina Starkov was a regular mapmaker in her regiment for the military until it is discovered that she has some dormant power. She discovers this power by going to the Fold, a place of darkness that splits the nation Ravka in half and is full of monsters. When the Darkling discovers Alina has the powers of the sun summoner, she is sent to be trained with Grisha so her powers can be used to destroy the Fold.

Element #1: Visualization

What's this element?

Leigh Bardugo uses exquisite visualization to describe and help you image the scene in your head. She describes almost every detail and actions using some decent vocabulary to make sure the scene is captured. She also uses personification as well to not only show us the scene, but to show us the emotion in the scene as well. Personification allows to imagine more about the scene and also gives the writing a bit more flavor.

"It happened so suddenly that I barely had any time to react. One moment, I was staring into his slate-colored eyes, and the next, his lips were pressed to mine. I felt that familiar sense of surety melt through me as my body sang with sudden heat and my heart jumped into a skittery dance. Then, just as suddenly, he stepped back. He looked as surprised as I felt." (196)

Why does it matter?

This is important to the book because it makes the book interesting to read. It provides a lot of detail and clearly shows what is happening. This is used to show the setting, characters' action, and their feelings. When an author does this, the reader is able to take in more information about the scene. For example, when describing the Darkling's eyes, instead of saying gray, she said "slate-colored." Another example of her visualization is when she explained her emotions for when the Darkling kissed Alina. She says, "I felt that familiar **sense of surety melt through me as my body sang with sudden heat and my heart jumped into a skittery dance.**" I made her unique descriptions bold in order to make sure you see the specific adjectives and adverbs she used. There was a lot of personification in this quote, like when she said "My body sang," and "My heart jumped into a skittery dance." Last time I checked, bodies don't sing and hearts don't jump into dances. These words capture the intense emotion and allow us to grasp a more clear picture of Alina's thoughts, feelings and actions.

Visualization Continued

What's the impact on the reader?

This element gives the reader clear image in their head of what the scene looks like to them. It also gives the reader a feeling of interest for the book as well. For example, if I say, "The cat crossed the street," that sentence would seem pretty plain to readers. To make it sound more interesting, I could say, "The orange cat inched from under the blue mini-van and into the cracked street. When its tail came from under the car and whipped into the air, the cat frantically dashed across the street." This sentence gives us a better visualization of the cat crossing the street. It tells us what it looks like, where it's coming from, and how it's crossing the street. In my example, the reader would feel more entertained from the use and addition of certain words for the example sentence because there is more detail for them to image.

Element #2: Vocabulary

What's this element?

One of the elements the author uses here is the vocabulary. In the very first sentence, the author uses the word cynical, a word I didn't even know. She chose this word in order to give a concise description in order to make the scene felt in the shortest way possible.

“Mal’s lips twisted in a cynical smile, a smile so different from the one I knew and loved that I almost flinched...The words hit me like a slap. In the dark of the hall, I felt an ugly flush creeping up my cheeks. I snatched my hand from his, crossing my arms over my chest...It was as if Mal could see right through me, as if he could pluck every fevered thought I’d ever had of the Darkling right out of my head. But on the heels of that shame came anger.” (230)

Why does it matter?

This element is important to the book because it gives the book a unique description of the scenes and also makes the book more concise. Without the advanced vocabulary, the book would seem a little bit more plain and simple to the reader. When I looked up the word cynical, I found out that it means concerned only with your own interest (the version the author used of the word). Each word is carefully placed to give the text some more zest. For example, the author could have said, “Mal’s lips changed into a smile that he wouldn’t usually do. The way he smiled made it look like he only cared about himself.” This is nowhere as good as what the author wrote solely because of the word choice and level of vocabulary.

Vocabulary Continued

What's the impact on the reader?

The impact the element had on the reader is engagement through specific word choice. Words alone can change a person's emotions and feelings if you say the correct ones. Another thing this element can do for the reader is teach them new words. Sometimes, when the reader is reading a book, they may encounter a word that they do not know the definition of, so as a result, the reader may look up the word and learn something just because the author used some of her advanced vocabulary. Specific word choice can also show the reader which scenes are more intense than others. When there's more details and higher vocabulary being used in a book, the reader may infer that the scene is going to be important to the plot or character in some type of way.

Element #3: First Person POV

What's this element?

The element the author uses here is first person point of view. The author does this on purpose to help us feel the emotion the character has in the scene. For example, the author uses first person in this quote to show us how Alina almost feels guilty at first, but then no longer does. When the text says, "I whispered, but I didn't meet his graze," her actions being shown to us from her perspective makes it sound like she's feeling guilty about her actions with the Darkling.

"It's not like that," I whispered, but I didn't meet his graze. It was as if Mal could see right through me, as if he could pluck every fevered thought I'd ever had of the Darkling right out of my head. But on the heels of that shame came anger. So what if he did know? What right did he have to judge me? How many girls had Mal held in the dark?" (230)

Why does it matter?

This is important to the book because in the first person point of view, you get to know all of the thoughts of Alina and as well as know everything they say to someone during the story. This is also important for Alina in particular because we get to see all of her struggle first hand on a personal level.

First Person Continued

What's the impact on the reader?

When the book is in first person, you get the luxury of experiencing an event through the character. You get so many details from this point of view and it makes you feel like you're inside of the story. You also get to understand why Alina makes certain decision and how she feel about others. If you're looking from her perspective, her feelings on someone may influence how you feel about that character as well because you only know what she knows and thinks. For example, I can say, "Alina walked to Starbucks in order to get her daily frappuccino. When she arrived in front of the store and went to push the door, Connor opened the door for her and greeting her will a good morning. Alina scolded him and went through the door." When I write the scene in first person, it goes, "I was in dire need of my daily frappuccino so I walked to Starbucks. When I walked up to the door and was ready to open it, this guy named Connor came and opened it for me. I don't like this because it seems like he only wants to get my number to show his boys. I looked at Connor with the meanest face I could make possible and swiftly walked inside of the story." When I wrote the example in first person, our opinion on Connor and how Alina feels about him has changed. We now know that Alina thinks that Connor only wants her number for bragging rights and we know nothing from Connor personally accept for the fact that he opened up the door for her. Since we don't know any information personally from Connor, we can only go off of his actions and Alina thoughts about him.

My Emulation: The Robbery

It all happened so quickly. I was in the middle of a marvelous day-dream with my all time favorite babe Rihanna at the beach, then suddenly the store erupted into a wild roar of crying. I turned my head to the left only to see a man dressed in all black with a ski mask on pointing a gun at the cashier demanding money. My body immediately froze and fear had begun to fill into me from head to toe. My heart had begun to run the 100 meter dash in my chest and my eyes were violently sliding from left and right analyzing the store. This was bad. The man was screaming to the cashier to hurry up and he would put a lot of emphasis on his swearing. "You need to hurry the f--- up before I put a round in ya f----- temple!" The cashier sped up but you can tell he was terrified as his whole body was shaking as he loaded the money inside of the man's bookbag. When there was nothing left inside of the cash register, the cashier held out the black bag with all the money in it with one shaky hand for the man to grab. I noticed that the cashier's other hand was under the table. When the man saw that the cashier had his hand under the table, he said, "What do you think I'm stupid man? That's ya life d---head!" and shot him right in the chest. The sound of the gun busted my ear drums and made my body jump and come back to life. Blood splattered on the in all directions and the cashier slide down the wall behind him, leaving a red streak on the wall. While I was frozen from shock, the man grabbed the bag, threw the gun, and darted out of the store.

Annotations

Annotation #1

In my scene I use the first element, visualization, by making sure to describe the scene with a good amount of detail. An example of this would be, "The cashier sped up but you can tell he was terrified as his whole body was shaking as he loaded the money inside of the man's bookbag. When there was nothing left inside of the cash register, the cashier held out the black bag with all the money in it with one shaky hand for the man to grab." This quote shows some pretty good visualization because I described that the cashier's body was shaking when collecting the money and that his hand was shaking when handing the robber the money. The impact this had on the story was giving it more detail and also allowing the reader to know more information about the scene, allowing more feelings and understanding for the scene. I hope that this scene makes the reader want to read more and also leave them entertained from the scene.

Annotation #2

I used the second element in this scene by choosing specific words in order to describe something in the scene. For example, instead of saying, "When I was daydreaming about Rihanna, people started screaming in the store," I added in adjectives, verbs and adverbs into the sentence. In order to let the reader know what kind of daydream it was, I added the adjective marvelous to the sentence and also Rihanna the character's all time favorite babe in order to let the reader know how the character feels about Rihanna and what kind of daydream they were having. Then I used personification just like Leigh Bardugo in order to give an more intense scene. For example, "fear had begun to fill into me from head to toe," is one of the ways I used personification in this story. I could've said I was, "I was scared," but that makes the story less intriguing for the reader because that's just so plain.

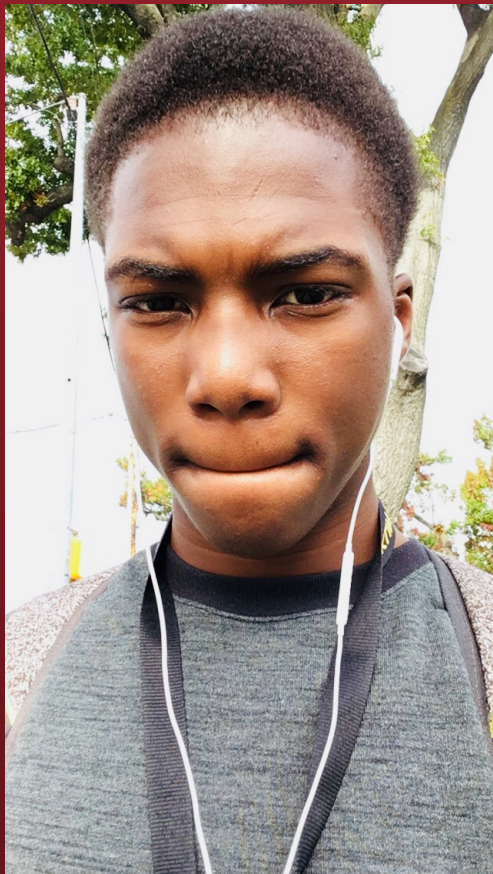
Annotation #3

I used the third element by making the story in first person. By making this story in first person, I made this scene a little more dramatic than others by having the main character describe everything that was happening. This was also perfect to change the mood of the story instantly as I had the character daydreaming to show that the store was at peace at the time and nothing bad was happening. I also used first person to give the reader a better understanding on the emotions of the situation. An example for this would be, "My body immediately froze and fear had begun to fill into me from head to toe. My heart had begun to run the 100 meter dash in my chest and my eyes were violently sliding from left and right analyzing the store." If I would've wrote the scene in third person however, it would probably be something like this, "A man dressed in all black with a gun in his hand and a bookbag on his back ran into the store. Everyone started screaming and put their heads down, and the man ran to the cashier." The example sentence in first person gives more detail than the third person did and was just more intense overall.

About The Authors



The book I'm basing this handbook off is named *Shadow and Bone* and it is by Leigh Bardugo. Leigh Bardugo is the one who created the Grishaverse and is a #1 New York Times bestselling author of fantasy novels. She has sold over one million copies of books inside of her Grishaverse. Some of these books include *Shadow and Bone*, *The Six of Crows Duology*, and *The Language of Thorns*. Bardugo was born in Jerusalem and grew up in Southern California. She graduated from Yale University and currently lives in Los Angeles California.



Lamar Reed is a student who currently attends Science Leadership Academy and is in the 10th grade. He lives in and was raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Lamar likes to read fantasy and adventurous type books and also likes to play video games with his friends when he has free time. He's a friendly guy and stays active by participating on the track team at his school.