

# WHEN WINNING HURTS

BASED ON TRUE EVENTS

## Emulation HANDBOOK

When Winning Hurts / Porfy Barrera  
By Zeyah Gomez

ROBERTO BARRERA

# PLOT

*Porfirio "Porfy" Barrera is an inner city kid trying to survive in a tough city and on the football field as a Washington Eagle. This is an autobiography of how Barrera resisted peer pressure from his teammates. Barrera comes from a good family. His Dad is a pastor and his Mom is a lawyer. However, his teammates weren't as fortunate. He shares a story about Tyrone Simpson; a 17 year old, African American who is the starting corner back whose Mom is strung out on drugs leaving Simpson as the man of the house. This is the case for most of the kids on the football team.*

# PLOT SEQUENCE

The Kings quarterback yells, "Dick in the ass" to the Washington Eagles before the game. During the game, Porfy sacks the quarterback. Coach Cohen taps Porfy on the helmet and declares, "You better buy that quarterback dinner after that hit."

What's this element?

This element is plot sequence. First, the author highlighted the trash talk by the quarterback. Second, the author highlighted the the hard hit that Porfy laid on the quarterback. The cause of the hard hit was because of the trash talk before the game. The author puts these two scenes in a sequence to show the cause and effect.

Why does it matter?

This is important to emphasize th emotion of Porfy when he finally was able to hit the trash talking King's quarterback. We see the importance because the whole team was cheering for Porfy off of this single hit. Players get hit in football all the time so why was there all this commotion for this one hit? Because there was a cause (trash talking) that made this hit more impactful. The author described the hit , "The qb never sees it coming, and his head snaps back like a crash test dummy hitting a wall at 50 mph." pg. 51 Porfy's hit was fueled up by emotion.

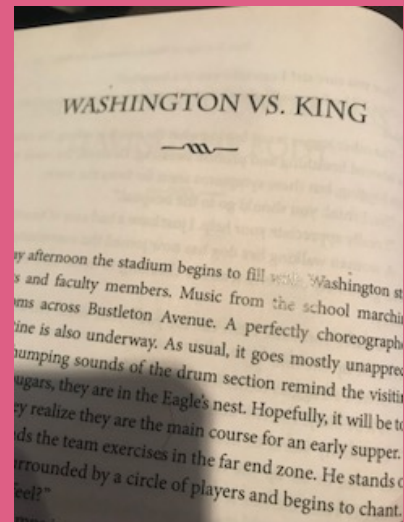
What's the impact on the reader?

This makes the reader feel the tension before the hit. The author intended to build up the moment with the trash talker as the instigator. The moment when the heckler quarterback got hit, he described the vicious hit being like "A crash dummy hitting the wall." Then he adds "The crowd gasps." This makes me as a reader think about the crushing impact on the quarterback.

# UNIQUE CHAPTER NAMES

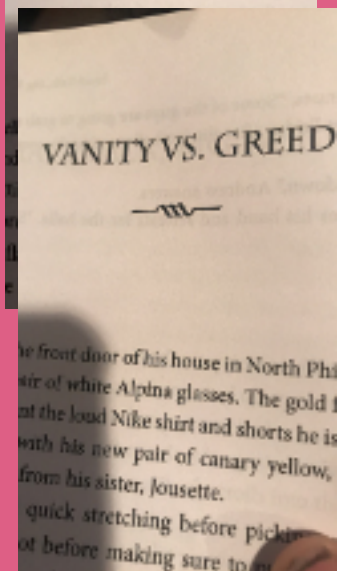
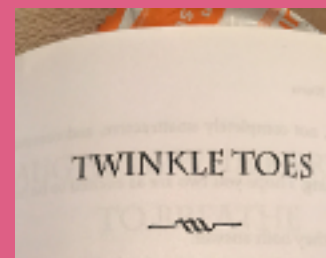
What's this element?

The author uses very unique chapter titles to grab the reader's attention. For example, when he talks about a game day he puts the team name versus the other team's name. When he talks about his personal life he put traits like Vanity versus Greed instead of football team names.



Why does it matter?

The title is important because it keeps a reader interested. A good author lures you in with a clever and witty title as a sneak preview for what's to come. A bad author uses too long of a title or a simple title that doesn't make you want to turn another page. "Twinkle toes." This chapter can mean many things. For example, staying on your toes because you live in a bad area or you're actually doing ballet.



What's the impact on the reader?

The impact of a witty title is that the reader wants to know the meaning of the chapter and will continue reading. The reader may have many questions and thoughts about what is going to happen. The reader wants to know or has that hunger and curiosity to know why a chapter is called what it's called. The reader reads the previous chapter in shock or whatever emotion that the previous chapter made them feel and now their holding their breath until the next chapter and the first thing they read is the next chapter title.

# Character Growth Through Sentences

"Rosa may I take a shower?" Porfy's Dad asked

"Ask the man of the house" Mom replied

Porfy's eyebrows rise slightly in surprise because he's never been acknowledged as the "man of the house."

## Whats this element?

The author is using character growth in these sentences. The author highlights how Porfy was in shock because his only responsible was school and football. When his Dad returned home after several years and asked his Mom to use the shower, she made clear that Porfy wasn't just the son but the man of the house. The intent was to show the growth of Porfy and how his role was changed from a son to the man.

## Why does it matter?

This is important because the reader sees the growth of the main character. The author highlights this because in the beginning he is just a regular high school kid with no very little responsibilities.

## Whats the impact on the reader?

When you hear this quote, the reader feels a sense of character growth because Porfy was only responsible for his studies and football. Now his Mom acknlowdged n front of his Dad that his role completely changed.

# School Decision

Written by: Zeyah Gomez

## The Interview

Toes tapping waiting on his name to be called.

*"Z-ahhhGomez"*

Guessing it was him Zeyah walks with the person who just butchered his name. Palms drenched in sweat as he carries his legs to a wide room that seems to be a library. Zeyah sees two people in blue collared shirts that reads in white lettering "SLA." He opens his computer that he brought from home and he feels his armpits sweating through his button up shirt. He then starts presenting his 8th grade project which was on the screen. The interviewers nodded their head but Zeyah can't read their faces to decide if they were enjoying the presentation. At the end of the presentation, Zeyah still doesn't know how it went. He walks down the steps to the lunchroom to see at least 300 kids lined up outside the brick building waiting for their chance to fill only a few spots.

## The Decision

Zeyah walks back to his home school. While he is walking, he is thinking of his future at SLA . He is so distracted by his thoughts while in class, his teachers yell at him because his head is not in class. He gets sent to the office. The school day goes by very slow he's still thinking about the interview. Zeyah's phone rings, it's his Mom.

*"Hey Honey"*

*"Hey Mom"*

*"How was your day at school?"*

*"Good, did you hear from SLA yet?"*

*"Yes honey I'm sorry they didn't accept you"*

Zeyah's heart sinking into his stomach *"Wow."* he's thinking.

## Overturnd

Zeyah is just enjoying his summer and trying to forget about the disappointing interview. One day when Zeyah is eating dinner, he is called into the kitchen for a talk. His Mom is standing and looking serious.

"Uh-oh" Zeyah thinks to himself.

" Zeyah, I got some good news." Mom says.

"Yes?" Zeyah answers relieved he's not in trouble.

"SLA accepted you after all,"she replied.

Heart pumping, face begins to grin "Really?"

"I went to the school and showed them your grades and you had all A's so they invited you to attend their school, Congratulations!" Mom said.

# Annotations

## PLOT SEQUENCE

First, I used the interview to set the scene. Second, I followed it by showing how I was consumed by the thought of being accepted by SLA. I put these two scenes next to each other on purpose to show how devastated I would be when I was not accepted. u

## CHAPTER NAMES

I used the second element by using unique chapter names. My example from my authors book was "Twinkle toes " and the one of my names were "Overturned" and that part of my passage was about how SLA changed their mind about not letting me in their school and accepting me.

## CHARACTER GROWTH

The third element I used character growth because Zeyah had to take on a new responsibility of going to a project based school after being accepted to SLA. He grew from making the presentation, then getting rejected, and then overcome it and getting accepted shows character growth.



# ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Porfirio Barrera writes about his life on the field and off the field. Porfy's home life was easier than his teammates because some of them had to sell drugs to support their family. It hasn't all been easy for Barrera, he has been jumped and seen people from all walks of life and decided to take us along the journey.



Zeyah Gomez is 15 years old, attends Science Leadership Academy . He participates in SLA athletics. He plays on the varsity Basketball team. His favorite classes are English and History. His hobbies are drawing and art.