

Annotated Bibliography

**Johnston, Dean. "Schizophrenia Knows No Boundaries or Borders."
Schizophrenia Diaries. N.p., n. d. Web. Web. 9 Mar. 2013.**

I read through this extremely long blog post but was enraptured the entire time. This was not the first post on the Schizophrenia Diaries that I had read, and I noticed that regardless of how old any of these people were, there was some kind of disconnect in their journaling. Some were more intelligent or older than others, which I could tell by their vocabulary or sentence structure but they all seemed to jump all over the place in their posts. They were most likely fighting with their schizophrenia when they composed the post, so this is not surprising. This specific post spoke to me because he spoke about his delusions as if they were real, even though he knows now that they won't. The way he talked so calmly and matter-of-factly about it made me feel, in a way, how real it was to him. It also gave me ideas on how I can highlight my character's auditory hallucinations and delusions. I don't want to use a stereotypical delusion, like the government is after my character, and this gave me more ideas.

**United States. National Institute of Mental Health. Schizophrenia. Bethesda: ,
2012. Web.
<<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/schizophrenia/index.shtml>>.**

This site helped me get down the basic medical ideas of schizophrenia, and it was really well-organized. It helped me decide what kind of symptoms my character Darah would display, such as "delusions of persecution," as well as giving me an idea of how to write a journal like a schizophrenic would. In addition to reading the diaries on the previous link, this described the jumbled thoughts that schizophrenics sometimes have, and that's how I am approaching writing these journals. I figure the way my character speaks will change throughout her treatment, as she tries different therapies and medicines, but this gave me a basis. It also helped me decide what age to make my character. I decided on 24 because I wanted her to be out of college but still not much past her early 20s. Bobby is her fiancé who died in the war but she believes his death was faked by the government so they could use him and the other members of his unit to test controversial cancer vaccines. She had some schizophrenic symptoms before, but her husband helped her manage them. I also learned that schizophrenics are more likely to be chronic smokers and this may be a path I choose to set my character on instead of

drug addiction. I may leave drug addiction, though, because it offers the same symptoms as schizophrenia and could explain why she was undiagnosed for some time.

Wiehardt, Ginny. "Writing in Diary Form." *Fiction Writing*. About.com, 09 Dec 2009. Web. Web. 16 Mar. 2013.

I chose to look for a website about writing a story in diary form because I started my first draft as journal entries from my main character and I wanted to see an approach someone online has already taken. After reading the comments, I found those most helpful. One of my main worries was that the story would drag or that I would lose something by only writing from one point of view. One of the comments on the page said that that specific writer created a character that was reading the journal so that there could be another point of view other than the narrator.

Gornick, Vivian. *The Situation and the Story*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001. Print.

This book was useful to me in that it tells how to separate the raw material of my life from the storyline of what I'm telling. I'm basing a lot of the facts of my story on personal experiences I've had, not necessarily with my sister but with another person in my life. Obviously not all of the details of my story occurred in real life (the deaths at the end, for example). But it was hard for me at first to separate myself from Lauren's character because I was the one on the outside, not the schizophrenic. So a lot of things scared me and I didn't understand, and I wasn't sure how to create the disconnect between myself and her character. This book taught me to create a persona for myself, which would be Lauren, and make her different from myself and treat the situation as if I had never experienced it, like it was just a situation that I completely dreamt up. I found it hard to always do this, but it did make writing go a lot more smoothly. It also showed me the importance of having a reliable narrator, which I think was a little bit difficult in this story. I am still trying to make it believable that all these delusions and visions are happening to her, and I'm not sure if it just seems made-up as of now.

Kelly, Joseph. *The Seagull Reader Stories*. 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2001. Print.

I read a few short stories in here to get the general idea of how much information to provide for each character and how to keep my readers interested. I was intending on using it just to see how short stories work, but I came upon a piece by James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues." His story focuses on the relationship of two brothers, mainly following the release of the younger brother from prison. Neither had any kind of psychological

problems, but what helped me what how the story explored the relationship between siblings following an important life event. The story was written from the older brother's first person perspective, so we didn't always get the younger brother, Sonny's, view, but it showed me how to form the thoughts of the sibling that is learning more about their brother or sister. It greatly helped me write Laurie's part of the story.