

Editor's Six Core Questions

1. What's the genre?

The structure is mini plot, following seven separate characters for one scene (short story) each. It is a "novella in short." The stories move chronologically in time and interweave, all relating to each other. Style is classic. Reality is realism. Time is long, spanning 1985-2019. The global genre is worldview education, with a sort of subgenre of Christmas like *It's a Wonderful Life* or *Christmas Bells*.

2. What are the conventions and obligatory scenes for worldview education?

The conventions are as follows:

- At least one mentor figure: Laura's mother, Noah, Skye, and Emmerich all serve as mentor figures for different characters throughout the book.
- Large social problem as subtext: Addiction and alcoholism form the backdrop of the story.
- Clear threat of escalating danger:
- Shapeshifter or hypocritical character:
- Cause-and-effect trajectory: On a global level, each of the characters' individual decisions affect the lives of the subsequent characters and feed into the next story.
- All viewpoint characters are forced to face a truth or long-standing problem that they've been ignoring. Some of the characters pursue their want and remain blind to the truth, others abandon their want and change so they can get what they need.
- Accelerated development: Each story is centered on a singular moment of character change. We catch up with the character just before they take divisive action, which is more rapid than you'd expect in real life.

Christmas conventions:

- The story is set against the backdrop of holiday rituals: Thanksgiving dinner, decorating the tree, performing in the Christmas pageant, carolling, and sending gifts.
- The holiday rituals provide fuel for characters to change

Obligatory Events:

- Inciting incident challenges the protagonist's worldview:
- Deny responsibility to respond:
- Protagonist lashes out:
- Point of no return:
- All Is Lost moment:
- Expresses their gift as acceptance of an imperfect world:
- Protagonist's innocence loss is rewarded:
- Bittersweet ending:

3. What's the Point of View?

First person, present tense from seven different narrators.

A Christmas Harmony
Nicole Wilbur

4. What are the objects of desire?

Each character begins their story by wanting to maintain the status quo. Laura wants her husband to be as he was when they married...

5. What's the controlling idea/theme?

We gain meaning when we choose to reach out and accept the love of others, despite the risk of being hurt.

6. What is the Beginning Hook, the Middle Build, and Ending Payoff?

In the beginning hook, a husband (Rob) and wife (Laura) grapple with the husband's alcoholism, which threatens their relationship and their young children, Noah and Skye.

In the middle build, Skye and Noah grapple with their family relationships at Christmas time on opposite sides of the world.