

The Novel Structure of The Smart Kid

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After an initial chase scene in chapter one, the story begins with Matthew (aka Michael Shale) meeting Charleen, the counselor, for the first time, in October, 1979.

The first half of the novel occurs during two months in 1979 as Charleen investigates the mystery of Matthew Janson. The reader joins Charleen in the mystery, learning about this unique student as she does. Just like Charleen, the reader will also be shocked to learn Matthew's secrets.

Part 1 concludes with an emotional climax for Charleen, where she comes to personal healing about the death of her family, and also regains trust and belief in Matthew who has been honest with her all along and has helped her to heal. She has learned all of Matthews secrets and met his twin brother Mark. The mystery has been solved, and all questions have been answered except one: Why is the government chasing Matthew?

Part 2 answers that question and begins at the point when the twins share their history with Charleen. The door is literally closed on the reader as the twins share with Charleen. So Part 2 is not a narration by the twins, but covers the same era and events that the twins would be telling Charleen about.

Part 2 is about the early years and origin story of Michael Shale (aka Matthew Janson). It begins in 1952 and quickly progresses to Michael's college years. His character and his philosophy of life are fully developed during this timeline, which covers 1952 to 1970.

Whereas, the first part of the novel is a mystery, this section is all chase and thriller. There are numerous surprises for the reader as it appears that Michael is about to be re-captured.

The final chase scene in this section is a re-telling of the chapter one chase, but from the government agent's perspective.

So the novel comes full circle back to 1979.

The character development that occurs during part 2 will have significance because the reader sees how Michael has progressed and grown over the course of time.

Part 3 is about the two days in November when the trio of (Matthew, Mark, Charleen) plan and execute their trap against Senator Perkins.

Michael Shale's death has been foreshadowed a number of times and, therefore, should be expected by the reader, who will be pleasantly surprised to discover, along with Mark, that his brother and Charleen are alive.

In summary, the story is told non-linearly.

Part 1: Oct-Nov, 1979. Mystery.

Part 2: 1952-1970. Chase/Thriller

Part 3: 2 days in Nov. 1979. Final confrontations and climax

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