

Style Sheet for *October Girl*

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Primary References

- The Chicago Manual of Style, 17th edition (CMOS), which is also available online at www.chicagomanualofstyle.org.
- Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition (MW), first listing unless noted otherwise.

Style Notes

Grammar Notes and Exceptions

Grammar notes

- Be sparing about reiterating a character's name (instead of a pronoun) when there are no other characters of the same gender around

Capitalization Notes and Exceptions

Capitalization notes

- A.M. and P.M. run-in with periods and set as smallcaps (to distinguish from AM radio)
- Capitalize "Black" and "White" when used as terms for race or ethnicity
- In dialogue, title capitalization can be used for short phrases to indicate vocal emphasis of the phrase as phrase and/or tonal scare quotes
- General or descriptive institutional or place names can be capitalized as if using the full name (the University, the Arboretum, the University Arboretum).

Punctuation Notes and Exceptions

Punctuation notes

- Oxford comma (serial comma) used for lists of three or more items, per CMOS.

- Commas inside quotation marks (American English standard)
- Ellipses indicated using three spaced periods (CMOS 13.50) rather than dedicated ellipsis character (U+2026)

Exceptions to conventional punctuation maintained

- Color compound nouns always hyphenated (e.g., “red-orange” whether it occurs before or after the noun)

Changes made with Track Changes off

- Eliminated spaces on either side of em-dash
- Eliminated double spaces
- Changed multiple spaces used for indentation (e.g. song lyrics) to tabbed indents
- Eliminated spaces at ends of paragraphs
- Changed straight quotes (single and double) to curly quotes
- Fixed commas and periods trailing quotation marks (American English standard)
- Removed extra punctuation following ! or ? ending quoted dialogue, e.g. "He said what?", she asked." ← [Edit to eliminate the comma]

Italics Notes

- Used for emphasis and/or quality of speech (e.g., staticky electronic voice)
- Used for interior monologue or thoughts
- Used for words and phrases as words
- *Not* used for onomatopoeic words unless they meet one or more of the above reasons; instead use quotation marks or no specific styling

Numbers Notes

- Spell out zero through one hundred and numbers ending in zeroes thereafter (two hundred thousand, but 200,001)
- For thousands place and higher use commas to separate groups of four digits (1,001 for example, or 2,345,678)
- Generally follow Chicago’s general rule (CMOS 9.2)

Notes on Tense

- Literary past tense; past tense is the default, but the story being is in the present for the characters. They do not know how it will turn out.

Notes on Dialogue

- Sentence fragments and comma splices OK in dialogue.
- Title capitalization can be used for short phrases to indicate vocal emphasis of the phrase as phrase and/or tonal scare quotes [Standard Procedure, Imaginary Numbers, Real Experience]

Notes on Point of View

- Third person limited, mostly from Skylar's POV
- POV switches will be indicated in timeline, below
- Narrative voice does not use contractions aside from -n't contractions that would sound labored or archaic when spelled out in full

Miscellaneous Notes on Plot, Setting, Characters, or Anything Else

- Seattle, WA, and connected magical lands. Late October, early 2020s or thereabouts.

Notes on Timeline

- **Chapter One: Making Friends**
 - Skylar's POV
 - 200' in the air above Lake Washington, atop a crane. October.
 - Skylar's attempt at making friends with a hawk is interrupted by adults who think she needs to be "rescued."
 - Back on the ground, Foster Island
 - Skylar find refuge with Bill and Rog, both EMTs. She hangs out with them and eats their lunch.
 - Faye, Skylar's mother, arrives and is dry and witty until they are allowed to leave.
 - Outside Skylar's home on Foster Island
 - Faye and Skylar walk home and their conversation lays the groundwork for more questions about who they really are...
- **Chapter Two: A Little Night Music**
 - Skylar's POV
 - In Skylar's room at home. That night.
 - Skylar struggles with drawing, then is interrupted by a Skype call from her friend Allison. They talk about school.
 - A storm begins and the power goes out, ending their call. Faye gets the emergency generator going and tries to distract her daughter, eventually singing her a song about the Rain Children.

- **Chapter Three: A Brave New World**

- Skylar's POV
- Skylar's room. The next day.
 - Skylar calls her friend Peter for help with a mysterious transmission, which is eventually revealed to give latitude and longitude coordinates for a point in the nearby arboretum
- The Arboretum, in the rain. After breakfast.
 - On the way to school, Skylar goes looking for the coordinates, finds a pagoda and a hawk (Rosa).
 - Efa enters on horseback, searching for her hawk, and takes Skylar and Rosa back to the Sanctuary for medical treatment. On the way, Skylar sees the rain sprites.
- Sanctuary.
 - Arriving at the mews, Skylar meets and is treated by Pwyll, the hawkmaster, and fangirls over all the birds. Although little time seems to have passed, Skylar decides she should go; Pwyll reminds Efa of her duties and she agrees to escort Skylar back.
- En route to the Rain Temple. Very little time has passed, by Skylar's watch.
 - They pass a glowing well and later, the rain sprites again; Skylar learns of their mischievousness. As Skylar leaves, Efa gives her a gift to remember her by.

Additional Notes for Designer

- Song lyrics generally set in italic. Refrains of songs then set back in roman type (following the convention of refrains in italics if the body were in roman). In a word has added emphasis in the refrain, it goes back to italic.

Word List

A

Access to the Spring

AM [amplitude modulation]

A.M. [*ante meridiem*; small caps]

AmberPort [software, icon name]

(the) Arboretum, also University Arboretum

Aurora [Aurora Ave in Seattle]

austringer [one that keeps goshawks, M-W

Unabridged, not in Collegiate]

(the) Ave [local term for University Avenue in Seattle's U District]

B

blonde/blond [use gendered spellings]

boundary waters

Brooklyn

C

Candyland [boardgame]

Canon of Visitors

Canons

Clue [boardgame]

(the) Cold War

coulda [casual speech for "could have" or "could've"; dialogue only]

cribbage [boardgame]

CSA, Child Safety Agency

D

dunno [casual speech for "don't know"; dialogue only]

E

Elementals

email

F

firefighter(s) [not fireman/men]

Foster Island

G

gonna [casual speech for "going to"; dialogue only]

gotta [casual speech for "got to"; dialogue only]

Go [boardgame; capitalized to avoid confusion with the English verb]

GPS

Greenlake

H

Heaven and Earth

I

J

Jenny [Skylar's family's name for the emergency generator, from "the genny"]

K

kindof [Skylar's casual speech for "kind of"; dialogue only]

Kirkland [WA]

kneeled [not knelt]

L

Lake Washington

LED

M

mancala [boardgame]

mews [as in enclosure for hawks, not alley]

Momma

Montlake Middle School

mustache [not moustache]

N

O

okay [not OK or ok]

orrery

P

pajamas

plangent

Q

R

Rain Child

Rain Lands [Seattle; our world]
Rain Temple [pagoda allowing transit from
Seattle to Sanctuary]
rain sprites
redingote [period women's riding habit]
Renaissance fair

S

Sanctuary [central brick building within the
Sanctuary Lands]
(the) Sanctuary Lands [otherworldly
location Skylar travel to from the
Arboretum]
scrubs [*n.* short for *scrub suit*, a
loose-fitting, two-piece garment worn by
hospital staff]
Seattle
sett [badger's den]
Silvertone radio
Space Needle

T

Tarot
tic-tac-toe
TV

U

(the) University
(the) University Arboretum, also the
Arboretum

V

virginal (*n.* a small spinet)

W

wanna [casual speech for "want to";
dialogue only]
Warrior Cats [video game]
wonkity [variant of "wonky," dialogue only]

X

Y

Z

List of Characters

First name	Last name	Group/family	Key details
_____	Bezier	Teacher	Math teacher; Mr.
_____	Lin	Teacher	Art teacher; Miss
Allison, "Ally"	Wunderlin	Sky's friends	Blond, pretty
Bill	_____	Rescue services	Short, blond, smiles. Blue scrubs and a leather vest. EMT and Rog's coworker.
Branwen	_____	Sanctuary	Efa's mare, dappled gray, about 15 hands
Efa	_____	Sanctuary	16, black hair in intricate braids
Faye	Warded	Warded family	Tall, raven-haired, violet eyes. Ms. not Mrs.
Metis	Warded	Warded family	Skylar's maternal grandmother
Abraxis	Warded	Warded family	Skylar's maternal grandfather
Peter	Lapin* [never mentioned]	Sky's friends	11, Dark complexion, curly hair, thick glasses
Phoebe		Warded family	Skylar's aunt
Pwyll	_____	Sanctuary	Falconer; short, bald, broad shoulders, brown eyes, basso voice. Rarely uses contractions when speaking in more formal, archaic Sanctuary Lands-style, but yes when using a more informal Seattle-style.
Rog	_____	Rescue services	Taller than Bill, dark-skinned, short mustache. Blue scrubs. EMT and Bill's coworker.
Rosa	_____	Sanctuary	Red-tailed hawk, female, belongs to Efa, wounded wing when first meet

First name	Last name	Group/family	Key details
Skylar, "Sky"	Warded	Warded family	11; long, black hair with blueish highlights in sun;
Abiathar, "Abe"	Warded (?)	Warded family	Skylar's uncle (mother's brother)
Veronica	Adler	Rescue services	Short, with red hair. Tweed suit and terrible fashion sense. Works for the Child Safety Agency.
Tim		Sky's friends	Has a dad who likes Faye Warded