Directions: Part of the requirements when you turn in your final fiction draft is to include a reflection piece that will help explain and celebrate what you created. Below is my recommended set-up and structure for this reflection.

Requirements:

* Use MLA formatting
* Show clear organization, mechanics, etc.
* Be specific about your story.

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Before reading my short story entitled, “The Bubble,” here are some things you should know:

1. **This is my first chapter.**

I would like to expand this story into a full length novel; however, what you see here is just the first chapter to a much longer, developing piece. This first chapter is all about establishing the conflict, much like we have seen in many of our mentor texts. The big conflict is that the main character—Charlotte—is grieving over the loss of her older sister, who committed suicide. I wanted to include this big even early on, to pull the reader in and help you understand the protagonist’s out-of-sorts voice and narration. She has to try to cope with that death and for most of the novel she chooses to live her life in isolation. She feigns “madness” and cuts off almost all communication with the world in order to escape her grief and to punish her parents. However, and this would be the grand final message of the book, she realizes that she is only punishing herself. She discovers she can’t let this death define her, and life is worth living, even in the greatest times of grief.

1. **The sister’s name is never revealed.**

If you noticed that Charlotte’s sister’s name is never given, that is on purpose. I wanted to help illustrate the process of mourning, in which Charlotte finds it too painful to mention her sister’s name. Her parents also never say her name, but out of shame. Although my narrator hints at the name once in the passage, she never says it fully until the very end of the book, when she says goodbye and let’s go of her grief and anger.

1. **There are a lot of flashbacks, repetition, and “imaginings.”**

When it comes to grief, I wrote “one true sentence” so to speak, like Hemingway said in our mentor text. I know what losing a loved one feels like, and often times you find yourself flashing back to old memories and well as repeating memories, or even imagining the “what ifs”—I used my own true experiences to mimic Charlotte’s voice and writing style in this story. She flashbacks to her sister quite often, but she also does a lot of morbid “imagining” of what her sister looked like and felt like when she died. For me, that was part of the grieving process so I recreated that with her as well. If it feels choppy, it is meant to be, especially at the start. My goal is to have it become less choppy, more fluid, as the story progresses because she will start to find her way through the grief and evolve as a character.