

## LET BE: A NOVEL ON FAMILIAL RELATIONS

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**Objective:** In the course of two semesters, complete an original manuscript that addresses and studies the relationships between family members as they deal with estrangement, alcoholism, and Alzheimer's disease.

**Methods:** Throughout the year, ten classical novels and ten contemporary novels were read and studied in order to analyze and comprehend the steps, devices, and methods for constructing novels, and how the form of the novel has changed, and continues to change over time. Additionally, personal studies of both alcoholism and Alzheimer's disease were conducted in order to both tactfully and accurately represent said illnesses.

**The Writing Process:** Beginning between the hours of five and six each morning, two hours would be spent writing and composing the novel, resulting in between eight and ten hours of writing each week, and ten newly composed pages. Further, continual writing workshops were conducted with fellow writers to review progress, gain feedback, and learn from other people's creative works.

**Results:** A personal understanding of alcoholism and Alzheimer's and how they present themselves in visible and invisible signs, a cognitive understanding of the novel as a form, as well as a first and second draft of an original novel, which is to be used both as a research project and an Honors Thesis for the University of Utah.

