

## Tangible Diegetic Media 1

### Letters from Jenny Smith

#### Aspect 1: My hobbies

##### ▪ Letter 1: Music

*Hi everyone!*

21.08.2014

*Your teacher Mr Helbling asked me to send you some letters to introduce myself. I even argued with him about this task since it is so much work to do and I don't like writing at all but, eventually, he was able to convince me.*

*So...How do I roll? Well, one thing that is very important for me is music. I can't live one day without listening to my favourite songs. Whether I am in the bus to school or at home (supposed to be doing my homework :P) I always listen to music. Why? I don't know...It just gives me a sense of fulfilment. I even play the piano; however, my musical talent has not been discovered yet and probably never will be discovered. My mother Rosie even says that I'm completely talent-free but that doesn't bother me, I just do it for myself and I really enjoy it. Sometimes, when I'm alone at home and I'm absolutely sure that nobody is around within a 2km radius I even dare to sing...but you don't want to hear that so don't ask me to sing when I'll come to Uri or I'll leave you without turning an eyelid ;).*

*Hmm...what's more? Oh, exactly! You might be wondering what kind of music I am listening to...well that depends on my mood but in general I adore rock pop bands just like Coldplay, Kings of Leon or Muse. Do you know any of them? They're definitely worth listening to! Oh exactly, during my language stay last year in Lucerne I visited a concert of a Swiss band called 77 Bombay Street. It was the bomb and I'd really like to visit another concert! But as far as Swiss music is concerned my experience is quite limited but maybe we'll find the time to listen to some music together. What do you think about that?*

*I've got to go now, my mother is yelling that the music volume is too high and that I have to tidy my room...How annoying! But just like Bob Marley once said: "One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain" ;). Solution: I'll turn up the volume but, in return, I'm going to tidy my room. That's fair, isn't it?!*

*See you soon!*

*Jenny*

##### ▪ Letter 2: Sport

*What's up my friends!*

22.08.2014

*A Swiss friend of mine used to say "Sport ist Mord"...do you know this expression? Well, that's certainly not true for me. I've been doing sports since I was a little child. My father used to go swimming and jogging with me but since he left I am rather on my own since my mother isn't the most athletic and sporty woman. However, I've always felt the urge to be active and to measure myself against others. I know that in Switzerland soccer (you might call it football :P) is very popular. I even know one Swiss player who is called Shaqiri but I haven't seen him playing yet. Is he as good as everyone says? I watched some of the matches during the World Cup on television and I must admit, I really enjoy watching soccer, even as an American girl ;-). By the way, the American team played tremendously. We've almost defeated the subsequent World Champion Germany – what a brilliant achievement! Do you know Landon Donovan? He's our captain and he looks quite*

good, too.

Furthermore, I'm an avid surfer. Since I was in Australia where I got in contact with the sport I've always been fascinated about it. There were so many great spots with perfect conditions to surf and dive in crystal clear water with powerful and sometimes even frightening waves. Unfortunately, the conditions here in Norton (Virginia) are a bit different.

What is more? I love dancing and adjusting myself to the rhythm of the night.. By the way, Lucerne has a charming and lively nightlife. I love strolling alongside the Reuss at night and thinking about my life. Oh wait! I'm actually running of the topic. Where did we leave off? Exactly, my favourite sport activities...In Switzerland, I was able to play squash with other language student's I've met during my stay, that was energy-sapping but a lot of fun, too!

Hmmm...I really don't know what to tell you more since I want to get to know you as well and otherwise we're running out of topics when we actually meet each other. But I can promise that there are other fascinating sports which I practice and which we might discover together one day.

Best regards and stay healthy,  
Jenny

### ▪ Letter 3: Entertainment

Hello!

23.08.2014

"I don't want to survive, I want to live" – Do you know this quote? Maybe you've come across it in German. It's a quote from Solomon Northup from the film 12 Years a Slave. What a mind-blowing and heart-wrenching movie! Have you seen it as well? If not it is high time to watch it on DVD!

I love going to the cinema which for me not only is a nice form of entertainment but an art form as well. A good film has the qualities to take us to places we have never been to before and to create worlds that only exist in our dreams. Furthermore, I really started to like French movies beside the tremendous Hollywood blockbusters since they are often able to create a certain feeling of intimacy with the cinemagoers. What are your favourite movies? Can you recommend some productions which I don't know yet? Maybe there are some Swiss movies which are fascinating? I am really interested in these kinds of cultural productions. Additionally, I'm an ardent lover of the theatre. Unfortunately, there aren't many theatre plays here in Norton but during my language stay in Lucerne I've often visited the local theatre with my friend Céline Laroux. I think the last play we've seen was "My Fair Lady" which was enchanting and great entertainment as well. Furthermore, the Theater Pavillon in Lucerne has a great cultural offer as well and the prices are quite reasonable. We might find the time to visit a play together one day... That would be nice!

Oh my! I forgot to mention that I also read a book every once in a while. If I find some spare time to enjoy myself, I always grab a book and delve into the world of the protagonists. However, life writes the best stories and I prefer to be the protagonist of my own life. Whenever I find the time to relax I write something in my diary. Unfortunately, I am prone to losing things and it has happened several times that I've lost something of great value. But what can I say? Even Friedrich Nietzsche knew: "The advantage of a bad memory is that one enjoys several times the same good things for the first time."

Cheers,  
Jenny

## Aspect 2: My family

### ▪ Letter 1: My mother

*Hello everybody!*

21.08.2014

*Even though it is quite personal to talk about my family with people I've never met in my life before, I give myself a little push and I'll tell you something about my mother. Well, my mother Rosie is a gift from heaven. Of course, we have our differences every once in a while but for most of the time we are one mind and on heart. I appreciate this even more since life wasn't always good to her. She really loved my father, Peter, but after I've caused some problems in the past he left the family unexpectedly from one day to the next. Since then, she has to endure me on her own which is not always a simple matter ;-). People always ask me how I'd describe my mother and I've always felt that it is not possible to express in words what she means to me. In general, she's a bit vain and sets a high value on her appearance. I think I've inherited that from her... Before she became a part-time private English tutor in Norton she was keen on becoming "someone important" but after my birth she dedicated her whole life to her daughter. She's the best mum I could imagine and I'm proud to be her daughter. In the summer, we like to go on long strolls in the beautiful green environment of Norton and we have confidential talk about any given topic. Admittedly, I missed her very much during my last language stay in Lucerne but what am I supposed to do? It's high time to take up responsibility and to get a bit more independent.*

*If I had to name one negative characteristic of her I'd say she's a bit overprotective. For instance, when I came to Lucerne last year she sent me every night several text messages to make sure that I was safe and that things were going well for me. However, I made it clear that I am well able to look after myself and that I'm increasingly independent. But, as you can imagine, I'll always be her little baby girl who gets lost in the big wide world without mummy's protection. Sometimes I ask myself if she'll ever be able to let me go... However, she always has and always will support me, come what may. I realised that during the time I had "minor" drug problems due to the relationship with my ex-boyfriend Bryan Curtis. Never mind, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, right? My mother definitely helped me to become the strong and confident person who I am today. For that, I'll ever be in her debt... Time will tell...*

*Kind regards,  
Jenny*

### ▪ Letter 2: My father

*What's poppin' my friends?*

*Mr Helbling asked me to describe my family ... So far so good, but talking about my father? Uff.. What can I say? He left us after my public breakdown as a result of my drug problems. Do I blame him for that? Yes! Do I make him responsible for the profound grief he inflicted on my mother and me? You can bet your life on it! It's not just that he left us but the way he left us was completely unacceptable. I mean, wouldn't you have a grudge against your father as well if he left you in the most difficult time of your life? I needed him more than ever and he disappeared without leaving the slightest trace. These days, we hardly have any contact with him except the modest amount of money he regularly sends us at the end of each month. But is that enough to be a father? I've always wanted a father who provides me with emotional support during*

*times of despair rather than impersonal financial support which is quite pathetic, by the way. However, the thing is that he doesn't even try to get in contact with us. We don't know where he lives and we don't know what he does to make a living. A friend of us told me once that he is engaged in a dubious company with strange tasks and strange goals and that he has to travel a lot but honestly, who cares? Last year, he sent me several postcards from Hongkong, Moscow, Tokyo and Paris. It seems that he is always on the go and that his company started well but what can I say? Apparently, my mum and I are the only ones who do not profit of his new way of life.*

*And the concrete reasons for his disappearance? One can only speculate about that...I think it has something to do with his past. He never wanted to talk about his background and he always remained silent about the days before he met my mother. He's a tight-lipped person and never takes the centre stage for himself. However, the vague memories that I have from the time we were still together are very positive. The most beautiful memory that comes to my mind when I think about the good old days is a family trip to New York. We really enjoyed ourselves and the happy days seemed endless.*

*He always was a loving father and a dutiful husband. I particularly admired his passion and dedication in all places and in all spheres of life. I am absolutely convinced that his new job gives him the fulfilment he was so desperately searching for. I just hope that he doesn't get in trouble since his ideas of justice were always more important to him than law. He used to say "The power of the lawyer is in the uncertainty of the law" and he always promoted financial and social justice, by any means necessary.*

*Huhh... I think that was it. It's still hard for me to talk about my father since he's still an important part of me. However, I have forgiven him and who knows; maybe we will cross each other's paths in the future. Time will tell...*

*With thoughtful regards,  
Jenny*

### **Aspect 3: My past**

#### **▪ Letter 1: Happy childhood days**

*Hello everyone!*

22.08.2014

*Talking about my earliest childhood memories? What a task! I have to admit that your teacher Mr Helbling gets a bit on my nerves since it is so difficult to recall those memories that were stored and locked away long time ago. However, it's a nice possibility to have a look at my old photo album and I'll try my best. My earliest childhood memory dates back to an excursion with my mum Rosie and my dad Peter. I don't know where we went but I do remember eating chocolate ice-cream all day long. Do you know the feeling when you taste something for the first time of your life and you immediately know that this taste will accompany your whole life? Well that was the feeling when I ate chocolate ice-cream for the first time. What a silly and irrelevant story but it really is my first childhood memory. What's more? In kindergarten I was able to make new friends and to push myself (and my teacher Mrs. King) to the limit. I was always eager to rebel and to fight with other children, particularly with boys who thought that little girls like me were too weak and too insecure to speak for themselves. Once, a boy called James stole my lunch box and ate everything that was inside. When I asked him why he did this he just replied that it was his right to eat my lunch since I'm just a spoilt little girl. Well, the very next day I filled my lunch box with numerous small beetles that I gathered on my way to school. As expected, he stole my lunch box again and, apparently so, had the shock of his life. This is one*



# Transmedia Storytelling

## Project Week in Altdorf



Date: 08.09.2014

*characteristic that I have retained and that I am very proud of. I've always been committed to help the weak ones, the poor and the less fortunate. Do you also have this kind of childhood stories when you did something that was completely against the rules but felt so good that you just decided to do it no matter what the consequences might be? I bet you do and I'm very looking forward to hear them!*

*Furthermore, I really enjoyed spending time with my family. Each Sunday, my father surprised my mother and me with something special. He spoilt us and was eager to make a beautiful time possible. Once, we even went to New York for one week without knowing it in advance. In hindsight, this was the best week of my life. As you can see, my early childhood experiences were full of joy and pleasure. I've been blessed with beautiful parents and a peaceful environment in Norton. Unfortunately, those days of happiness didn't last forever...*

*Best regards,  
Jenny*

### ▪ Letter 2: My Swiss roots

*Hi!*

22.08.2014

*Believe it or not but I have Swiss roots! When I was a little child my parents travelled around the world and visited numerous different countries. I was born in Zurich but we left Switzerland again when I was six months old. At the age of three, I spent more than one year in Switzerland since my father worked in Zurich for a small company. However, I barely remember this stage of my life but there's one thing that marked me unmistakably – my accent. Even though my parents are born in America and talked with me in proper American English I was never able to speak the language without any accent. There are good reasons for this. For instance, when I played with other children in the playground I had to adjust myself to their language and I had to learn new speech sounds. Additionally, my babysitters talked with me in their mother tongue as well and I imitated their pronunciation every so often.*

*However, please don't try to talk to me in Swiss German since I only understand a few words and my pronunciation is terrible. I hate it when Swiss people ask me to say "Chuchichästli" it's simply not possible to pronounce this word accent-free if Swiss German isn't your mother tongue!!!! But maybe you can teach me some nice German expressions? As you know, I'm coming to Switzerland to learn German at the GE-language school in Lucerne. At the moment, my German is terrible even though I've spent the last summer in Lucerne to improve my language skills. Otherwise, I wouldn't have to come back right? I'm just kidding...;-) I am very looking forward to coming to Lucerne since I love everything about the Swiss culture and the Swiss way of living. However, I've never been to Uri or Altdorf before and when your teacher asked me if I'd like to explore another beautiful side of Switzerland I delightedly agreed.*

*But enough about me! Have you ever visited America or even Virginia before? Have you ever talked to an American person? What experiences have you made? Tell me about it, I am eager to learn something about your intercultural experiences!*

*I am very looking forward to talking to you!*

*Best,  
Jenny*

### ▪ Letter 3: The most difficult time of my life

*What's crackin' my friends?*

23.08.2014

*Wow...that's going to be hard...*

*When I talk about my past there's one phase of my life which left its mark on me and influenced my life profoundly. I wouldn't be the same person if I hadn't met Bryan Curtis. When I was 16 years old I was a rather insecure person. I knew that certain boys had a crush on me but these feelings weren't based on reciprocity. However, Bryan seemed to be completely different. He was a rebellious youngster, a few years older than me and all the girls in town were crazy about him. He's a very charismatic person and knows exactly how to treat a woman and, somehow, I was able to attract his attention. To cut a long story short: We became a couple and stayed together for 9 months. So far so good, but what I didn't know in advance was that Bryan had "slight" drug problems to put it nicely. At the beginning, he was able to control his addiction but things got worse over time.*

*In hindsight, I should have listened to my mother since she told me numerous times that Bryan is the embodiment of a "good-for-nothing" and that I deserve something better. As you can imagine, I didn't listen to her since I was firmly convinced that I can change him and that he has a hard shell but a soft core. However, things went differently...*

*I really liked him and I wanted to be his muse but he told me that he can't have a relationship with someone that isn't willing to share his passion, namely the excessive consumption of marijuana. Have you ever done something just to please someone and that you've regretted afterwards? Well, that's how I felt after my first contact with marijuana. For several months he pushed me to smoke dope even though I've always felt that my body was trembling after the consumption of it. I dissociated myself from my family and I became intolerable. I rebelled against my family and lost all my vitality. It was a vicious circle: Harming my mental and physical health in order to keep my boyfriend or turning away from Bryan forever? Lastly, I didn't have to take this decision myself since I suffered a nervous breakdown in public and Bryan was forbidden to contact me for at least two years.*

*The consequences of those events were devastating: My father left us unexpectedly and I've lost confidence in men. However, my mother supported me unquestioningly during that time of despair and I am convinced that every cloud has a silver lining. I became stronger and I think this experience enables me to help people in similar situations...In the future I'll stand up for drug prevention and I already have concrete plans in mind. Time will tell....*

*Cheers,  
Jenny*

### Aspect 4: My last language stay in Switzerland

#### ▪ Letter 1: What I've done

*What's up my Swiss friends?*

21.08.2014

*I have to get it off my chest: You live in a beautiful country with picturesque scenery. Are you even aware of that? I mean, Norton is a nice place too and America is great but nothing compares to the quality of life in Switzerland. As you might know, I've already visited Switzerland several times and I attended a language school in Lucerne last year called "GE-language school" with the goal of improving my German skills.*

*However, I really have difficulties with the German language and it is hard work to learn it properly. I can barely express myself in German and that's why I'm coming to Lucerne one more time this summer. Hmm..but what have I done the last time I was in Lucerne?*

*Of course, I have visited a lot of tourist destinations such as Zurich, Bern and Geneva but I have to admit that Lucerne is the most beautiful place in Switzerland by far. You might argue that I haven't visited Altdorf yet but that will change soon ;-). By the way, do you have any insiders' tips for me? What do you particularly like about Switzerland? Which places are an absolute must to visit? Don't tell me to go up to the Pilatus on the steepest cogwheel train in the world since I've already done this last year and I'm still dreaming that a fatal accident occurs. Yes, I know...I'm a chicken but it's difficult to overcome my fear of heights. However, maybe you can provide me with unconventional and extraordinary ideas for my language stay this year?*

*What's more? Oh exactly! I love going to the theatre in Lucerne. It's such a lovely place and the plays are always breathtaking! Furthermore, I've spent a lot of time with my friends at a place called "Ufschötti" where you can enjoy yourself on the shore of Lake Lucerne. Finally, I spent a lot of time discovering the nightlife of Lucerne in its charming and lovely alleys. Hmm..I think that's it...Oh wait! I forgot to mention that I also spent some time in the GE-language school. In fact, most of the time I was studying but without much success despite the long time period I've been in Lucerne (2 months!). But you know what? I make my friends responsible for that since they have to learn English at the GE-language school and I just gave them the opportunity to practice their skills ;)!*

*See you soon,  
Jenny*

### ▪ Letter 2: My friends

*Hi everyone!*

22.08.2014

*Have you ever been apart from your family for two months? No? Me neither...but I have to admit that it was a valuable experience since it helped me to become more independent and it raised my self-esteem. Prior to the departure I had a thousand questions in my mind. Will I be able to accustom myself to the Swiss culture? Will I be able to communicate with people from another country with a completely different language? And most importantly: Will I be able to make friends in Switzerland?*

*From my first day at GE-language school in Lucerne I knew that at least the last question would be answered positively. Shortly after I had entered the building there was a group of other language students that smiled at me. They somehow realised that I was very uncertain and a bit lost and, subsequently, they approached me to facilitate my arrival. Since then, we have been able to strengthen our friendship and to become a closed group. They are almost like a family for me and we share our deepest secrets. Has it ever happened to you that you arrived somewhere and you immediately felt welcomed and comfortable with other people?*

*Oh yes, you might actually wonder who I am talking about... Well, that's quite difficult to describe since they are all very unique persons with their own characteristics and their own peculiarities. However, I might be able to break it down and to describe each person with one sentence...*

*First of all there is Alessia Gianelli who is absolutely adorable, an ardent lover of theatre and a real night owl. Then, there is Céline Laroux our French girl from Vichy. She's a little chatterbox, totally against the consumption of alcohol and I even went on holidays with her to Berlin for a few days last year. Furthermore, there's Melanie Laura Holster, our Latvian girl, who is a passionate and ambitious dancer, however; every now and then she talks too much and isn't really able to keep secrets for herself. Nonetheless, I still like her very much. Last but not least, we have our two Swedish guys from Stockholm Steven Peter Eriksson and Sven Nils Paulsson. Steven is a melancholy young man and a person you can trust unconditionally. Whereas Sven is*

*a nightlife enthusiast, always full of energy and a very charismatic person. We even had a short relationship last year but we realised quite soon that we don't fit together. I don't necessarily want to talk about our past relationship since I've learned that the only way to progress is to look ahead into the future. However, we remained close friends and trust each other unquestioningly.*

*Wow, I've never described my friends in just one sentence each and I probably haven't done justice to them but one thing is clear: They are so important to me and I would tell them (almost) everything. Maybe you'll get the chance to meet them one day... Time will tell...*

*Phu... It's getting late and my mum is asking me to help her with some stuff on her computer. It might be hard to live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century without being a digital native but it is even harder to be the daughter of a person who isn't accustomed to such electronic devices! Mum I'm coming! (I am actually feeling like Superman right now... HA!)*

*PS: I forgot to mention that all of my friends are in Switzerland to learn English at the GE-language school (German and English language school) and that I am the only one who is actually there to learn German. However, I always communicate with them in English so that they can benefit from my presence as much as possible. ;-)*

*See you soon,  
Jenny*

### **Aspect 5: My concrete plans for Switzerland**

#### **▪ Letter 1: GE-language school**

*What's up everyone?!*

21.08.2014

*You might be wondering why an American teenager wants to attend a language school in Switzerland. Well, this question is more difficult to answer than it might appear at first sight...*

*First of all, I've always felt a certain connection to Switzerland in general and to Lucerne in particular. I've spent quite some time there during my childhood and I've always wanted to go back to my roots one day. After having successfully finished college in Norton I wanted to beat a new path but I didn't exactly know what to do with my life. My mother Rosie recommended going on a language stay abroad but, at least initially, I didn't fancy this idea at all since I always get itchy feet when I'm abroad for a longer period. However, I decided to inform myself on the internet and Lucerne with its lovely and charming atmosphere found its way into my heart again. Furthermore, I "coincidentally" found the homepage of the world-famous GE-language school which offers a high-quality teaching program with internationally recognised certificates and diploma. If you are interested in the educational and cultural program of GE you can easily get a first impression by visiting [www.languageschool-lucerne.weebly.com](http://www.languageschool-lucerne.weebly.com). It's definitely worth a look, you won't be disappointed ;-).*

*By the way, what is public school like in Switzerland? What do you like about it and what would you change if you could? What are your dreams for the future? Do you already have firm plans in mind? I am looking forward to your answers with great interest!*

*See you soon,  
Jenny*



### ▪ Letter 2: Cultural aspects and other goals

*Hello my friends!*

22.08.2014

*Have you ever written a bucket list? Oh, right... You're probably not familiar with the term "bucket list" since it's a fixed American expression. Well, a bucket list is a list of things you desperately want to do before you die or, in order to refer to its name, before you "kick the bucket". Well, I've written a bucket list for Lucerne even though I hope that are still many years to come ;-)*

- *Visit Mr Helbling and his class in Uri*
- *Learn German as fast as possible*
- *Spend as much time as possible with my friends*
- *Go camping in Lucerne*
- *Run around the Rotsee*
- *Visit the local theatre of Lucerne*
- *Milk a cow*
- *Take up yoga or visit the gym*
- *Get backstage at a concert of 77 Bombay Street*
- *Swim in the Reuss*
- *Make something unexpected and unique*
- *Become less forgetful*
- *Make new friendships all over the world*
- *Help as many people as possible*
- *Turn my shady past into gold*
- *Visit an event at the KKL*
- *Learn how to speak Swiss German*
- *Kiss a Swiss guy and fall in love*
- *Sleep outdoors watching stars*
- *Visit Zermatt, St.Gallen and Lugano*
- *Meet a Swiss celebrity*
- *Become invisible for a few days*
- *Eat as much Swiss chocolate as I can*
- *Read all the books of Aldous Huxley*
- *Visit a match of the FC Lucerne*
- *Fulfil my duty*

*What do you think about my plans? Have you any suggestions to add? What do you recommend doing in Switzerland? What is on your bucket list?*

*There are so many questions in my mind and so many expectations to fulfil but I am looking forward to Switzerland with confidence and determination. I know exactly that this trip will change my life forever and that I'll finally find the fulfilment I was so desperately searching for the last several years.*

*American artist and author Billy Watterson once said "I find my life is a lot easier the lower I keep my expectations" but that is definitely not true for me. I strive for high aims and I want nothing but the best. In my opinion, determination is the key to success and I know exactly what kind of person I want to be in the future. It is high time to change something. Not only to change something in my life but also to change something in the life of so many other people. Most of us are blessed with love and wealth without even being aware of it. I want to help those less fortunate and Lucerne is the gate to the world for me.*

*Time will tell...*

*Best regards,  
Jenny*