

Katherine Hong

Professor Lindgren

Critical Disability Theory

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Reflecting on *In Visible*

I decided to do a comic format for my project because I felt that it best showcases my sister Natt's experiences with disability. Specifically, I wanted to highlight stories that emphasized the invisibility that often comes with being disabled. This invisibility can stem from numerous sources such as family, friends, society, and even the disabled person. For instance, I drew Natt struggling to pronounce the exact form of spina bifida and googling it. I also showed that Natt had some trouble explaining the details of her disability from a medical perspective. I juxtaposed this with a Wikipedia entry that explained lipomeningomyelocele using clinical language. However, throughout the comic, I wanted to emphasize that while Natt was unfamiliar with the scientific jargon, she clearly understood her disability, as demonstrated through her recalling of relevant memories. In summary, I found the comic form and its use of iconography to be the most powerful in depicting disability and invisibility. I hope to stress that one cannot understand disability through a shallow observation of a person's physical appearance. Instead, by actively listening to and respecting the experiences of disabled people, one will gain a holistic understanding of disability that recognizes both the challenges and joys. Hence, I chose the title *In Visible* to highlight these truths.