**Chapter 1: “Displacement Function” (Refined – Final Outline)**

**ACT I – The Move: A Faulty Memory System**

**Purpose**: Establish recent memory issues, family dynamics, his odd worldview, and relocation context.

* Alex’s parents moved to Sapporo partly for work, partly because doctors recommended a quieter environment might help with his *“episodic cognitive inconsistency.”*
* He doesn’t consider it a sickness. Just a misaligned data storage method.
* Opening with him journaling mid-flight: writing time-stamped logs of the people around him, seat numbers, and which way the clouds are spiraling.
* Unpacking reveals **sticky-note logic systems**, object placements labeled with coordinates or functions: “North = bed, West = anchor zone.”
* Mentions “Anchor Log v2.1”—his evolving tracking notebook for thoughts, data, and reminders.
* Still forgets brushing teeth twice. Adds a “Personal Hygiene Crosscheck” section to the log.
* **Closing beat**: “New environment established. Old inconsistencies persist. Pattern mapping begins tomorrow.”

**ACT II – Quirks, Isolation, and Vending Machine Math**

**Purpose**: Social withdrawal, how he sees the world, quirky pattern obsession in everyday things.

* At school: doesn’t speak unless spoken to, but maps the hallway footstep tempos, locker open/close patterns, bell harmonics.
* Introduces **“Decision Ritual”** for mundane choices (e.g., choosing between three bento box flavors—chaotic, optimal, or compromise).
* Logs vending machine drink combos based on color palette harmony and button click feel.
  + (e.g., “Sour green tea + slightly convex button = tension-reducer.”)
* Classmates think he’s weird but not hostile. One teacher notices his obsessive logging.
* First *log-worthy anomaly*: can’t remember the path he took home. Anchor notes were inconsistent. Logs it as “Map Discrepancy: Severity 2.”
* Adds a “Path Certainty Rating” scale to Anchor Log.
* Closing beat: “Spatial certainty compromised. Must tighten observation.”

**ACT III – The Snowfold Silence Puzzle**

**Purpose**: Natural phenomenon sparks structured curiosity for the first time.

* Notices snow muffles schoolyard sound in a way he finds mathematically *odd.*
* Begins tracking **daily acoustic variables**: crunchiness of snow underfoot, muffling of distant chatter, echo latency in alleyways.
* Assigns values like “Muffle Index” and “Decay Strength.”
* Parents notice he’s keeping logs on everything from the kettle whistle’s delay to how his shoelaces behave differently on snowy vs. dry mornings.
* He doesn’t think it’s “research.” He’s just *cataloguing the world so it doesn’t get lost again.*
* Closing beat: “I can’t trust memory, but I can trust systems.”

**ACT IV – Research as Play (and Panic)**

**Purpose**: Transition from casual obsession to intentional research. Shows early mistakes.

* Notices a school bulletin: *Exploration Board seeks independent student projects. No reward, just submission.*
* Idea triggers something: he can test a pattern. Control a system. *“If snow changes sound, I can prove it.”*
* Begins first “experiment” with flawed planning: forgets to track humidity, places mic too close to body, logs audio inconsistently.
* Frustration builds—memory fails, app glitches, gets wind noise instead of ambient.
* Doesn’t give up. Rewrites variables. Starts again.
* Closes with: “Error accepted. Anchor Log: upgrade to 2.2.”

**ACT V – Recognizing the Pattern**

**Purpose**: First research success. Shows obsession sharpening cognition.

* Over a few days, captures clean data. Charts a slight but consistent change in ambient frequency attenuation based on snow moisture content.
* Begins calculating his “Silence Curve”—a term he invents that maps how snow alters perceived space.
* Noticed something new: **he didn’t forget to log once** while actively analyzing results.
* Realizes he feels calm when seeking patterns. Memory clarity increases with focused logic.
* Starts writing bullet-point conclusions in clean handwriting—a sign of growing pride.
* Closes with: “Understanding stabilizes noise. Pattern compression confirmed.”

**ACT VI – His First Paper: The Dissonance File**

**Purpose**: Finish arc with first personal research paper. Formalizes his new path.

* Writes up a 2.5-page report:
  + **Title**: “Snow as an Acoustic Modifier: An Initial Inquiry into Spatial Muffle Systems”
  + Includes audio charts, weather logs, ambient decibel charts.
  + Adds a final section: *“Notes on Internal Cognitive Feedback During Observation.”*
* Doesn’t submit to Exploration Board. Stores it in a folder labeled *“Dissonance Files – v0.1.”*
* Parents think he’s finally making “progress.”  
  He doesn’t correct them. For him, the research is not healing—it’s *grasping something truer than memory.*
* Final beat: **Anchor Log Entry**:

“Subject: Snow.  
Observation: Suppresses sound but clarifies thought.  
Outcome: Memory stable during structured inquiry.  
Conclusion: I must keep recording.”

**Optional Flavor Quirks to Insert Throughout:**

* Logs the number of tiles he steps on daily vs. energy level.
* Makes jokes to himself like: “If socks go missing at a quantum rate, is the laundry a wave function?”
* Categorizes smells based on “emotional spectral weight.”
* Treats shadows on walls like temporary data traces: *“Sunlight at 2:14PM = emotion spike. Unknown cause. Anchor tag added.”*