

Assignment 8: Write Up

Part 1:

The purpose of my website is to enable the sampling of classic literature through a whimsical tool for title browsing and discoverability, while also offering the opportunity to go deeper into the text via links to read each full book in the public domain via Project Gutenberg for free. The site hopes to encourage visitors to try a classic they might not be familiar with on a low-level and to promote literacy in general on a high-level.

My original plan was to use the Google Books API to embed each book's full text, but their terms of use have changed, and so I switched to Project Gutenberg whose terms do not allow embedding. They do allow linking as I have done.

I convey information regarding five internationally acclaimed works of classic literature which I love and hope my website visitors will enjoy. The site is interesting and engaging because I have a book wheel spinning animation on-load, a large digital bookshelf holding book samples that pulse on-load, and because users are able to sample a book's first pages for "trialability" without the commitment of a full book; then at the bottom of the page, they are offered the opportunity to read the full text via Project Gutenberg if they so choose.

The target audience includes fans of the existing classics who would love easy access to read them again, as well as non-readers who have never been introduced to the classics before and who might be converted after reading the pop-up samples.

Part 2:

- **On-load**, watch the spinning book wheel for a bit of immersive enjoyment, and notice the books "pulse" on the shelf to entice users to explore them.
- **Click** any one of the books that are not colored yellow (Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Jane Eyre, Moby Dick, The Odyssey, or The Time Machine) and watch a sample of the book appear for you to read.
 - Click anywhere on the dark background to **exit** the sample.
- **Follow a link** at the bottom of the webpage to read the full text on the Project Gutenberg site via a new tab that will open. You can choose to read Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Jane Eyre, Moby Dick, The Odyssey, or The Time Machine.

Part 3:

- 1) **Bootstrap:** I chose to use the Bootstrap JavaScript library in order to make my website responsive in a convenient way. I pasted the CDN at the bottom of my HTML page. It allows my bookshelf and the rest of my page content to adapt to different sizes.
- 2) **Anime.JS:** I used the Anime.JS library in order to add whimsy and visual interest to my website. On-loading the page, users will see an svg image of a radial bookshelf rotate at a charming speed. I coded it to last for 300 milliseconds so as to be fun and playful without creating a distraction from the main goal of the site, to encourage the reading and appreciation of literature.
- 3) **CSS Animation:** I used the CSS animation “pulse” to animate the books on my webpage’s bookshelf when user’s load the page. I chose to use it because I wanted to offer some visual feedforward that users would find hidden content via the bookshelf, but I didn’t want it to be over-powering or distracting. The pulse was the perfect clue to subtly draw attention. I think it adds a simple but subdued call to attention that highlights the main purpose of the site, to allow for browsability and discoverability of classic literature with the hopes of promoting literacy and encouraging readership overall.
- 4) **jQuery:** I used jQuery to write functions that allow me to show and hide samples of each titled book on the shelf. I chose jQuery for ease of use and its ability to execute the function across the different titles without having to copy and paste every single time. When a user clicks on a title (such as Moby Dick) the jQuery function “shows” the previously hidden image of an open book featuring the first page(s) of the chosen title against a see-through black background, and then “hides” the image when the user clicks off of the image again. I think this adds a sense of wonder and excitement when users click on the book on the shelf. They might not expect to “read” the sample and then have it hidden away back on the shelf once again.

Part 4:

Originally, I had planned to feature many more titles of all shapes and sizes as prototyped in my assignment 7 submission, but after speaking with Jason I realized that my original design would fall victim to Fitt’s Law. The targets weren’t large enough to allow for accuracy and could have caused users lots of frustration if they “missed” the book they intended to sample.

I also changed the purpose of the radial bookshelf wheel. I had intended to have it serve as a “surprise” wheel that would randomly select a title for a user who didn’t know what they wanted to read, but I wasn’t able to code that feature correctly; so instead I changed it to a visually pleasing animation to add a bit of atmosphere and whimsy to the page.

Part 5:

This was very tough for me. I tried several different ways to code animations that I wasn't able to bring to functionality. I believe I did a good job of iterating on my design to a level that I could accomplish, but I had wanted to have individual books animate on-hover rather than all books at the same time on-load as well as wanting to create multiple functions and animations for the same object which I wasn't able to execute.

I also tried to put the files in more folders per the assignment prompt, but it broke my entire page; so, I went back to having the main files along with a bootstrap folder and an asset folder instead.

References:

I viewed these tutorials and sites for sample code and inspiration:

Stack Overflow: <https://stackoverflow.com/>

W3Schools: https://www.w3schools.com/bootstrap/bootstrap_get_started.asp
https://www.w3schools.com/css/css3_animations.asp

Anime.JS: <https://animejs.com/>

YouTube:

Bootstrap Help: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqOEoUR5RHg&t=543s>

Anime.JS Help: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7WnZ9hxUak&t=1039s>

CSS Animations Help: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2a2p2FhBgfA>

jQuery (Vids 1-3): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMxGhHNOkCU>

My classmates Margot Henderson, Ari Daly, and Dana Frostig kindly helped teach me how to debug my bootstrap and animations.

My Wyzant tutor, Nathan, helped me fix my broken jQuery functions and taught me how to add a background behind my sample texts for both visual aesthetics and easy of exiting the sample.

I downloaded the radial bookshelf and open book images from the public domain online.