

# T1A3 - Terminal Application

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# Overview

# Background

- Stoicism from “Stoa” derived from the *Stoa Poikile* Ancient Greek for painted porch. The philosophy of The Porch
- Stoicism is an ethical framework with three major historical texts
- “Meditations” by Marcus Aurelius. Personal diary of Roman Emperor 161 - 180 AD
- “The Enchiridion” by Epictetus. Based on his lectures on philosophy from around 125 AD
- “Letters from a Stoic” By Seneca. Collection of 124 letters on moral teachings sent to a Roman official in 65 AD

# Purpose

- Among stoics both historical and modern its common place to regularly refer to these texts for guidance and support.
- Inspired by 'Fortune' and Terminal bible applications
- This application will allow a users a simple method to look up and refer to selected texts.
- Being a terminal application with minimal UI means the application is portable and light on system requirements.
- Ruby is cross platform so this application can run on Windows, OSX and Linux

# Features

- A TUI (Terminal User Interface) using TTY-Toolbox
- Able to parse selected texts based on user queries
- Produce random selection of text if no query is entered
- Input sanitization so that only valid options are acted upon

# User Interaction

- Users can run the application in four different ways.
  - a. With no arguments for a random quote
  - b. With the -v argument for a visual TUI
  - c. With arguments to specify; Work, Book, Section, Line. in one of two syntaxes
  - d. With both -v and specifying arguments for visual of that text
- Selection syntax is as follows
  - a. Work:Book:Section:Line e.g. "Meditations:2:3:4"
  - b. -w "work" -b "book" -s "section" -l "line" e.g. "-w Enchiridion -b two -s three -l nine"
- Visual mode will use TTY-Toolkit to draw visual frames to navigate text within

# Code Base Walk Through

# Gems

- TTY-Screen: To access information about the terminal running the application
- TTY-Box: To draw the bulk of the ui. Using frames and boxes
- TTY-Prompt: For user selection and interaction with the application
- TTY-Option: Management and parse of command line arguments
- TTY-Font: For large ascii fonts
- TTY-Pastel: For string coloring and styling



# Code Structure

- The ui in a separate file `/lib/ui.rb` to handle all prompts and frames
- Text lookup and file reading kept in a `'reader'` method
- Use of array methods (`.length` etc) so ensure valid input when using selection syntax

# Development Review

# Challenges, Ethical issues & Favourite Parts

- Building the visual interface has been slow going with incremental gains
- Feeling like my application is both too hard and too easy
- Source text is an older translation using archaic phrasing that may be difficult for some users to understand
- Text are from 'Project Gutenberg' an entity from the USA which hosts public domain works. Australia has separate laws which needed to be checked
- The logic and validation of text selection proved challenging and rewarding

```
T1A3/src on ↳ main  
> ruby stoa.rb meditations:1:2  
Meditations  
From the fame and memory of  
him that begot me I have  
learned both shamefastness  
and manlike behaviour.  
  
Book 01
```

Example of MVP (Minimum viable product)