

The Snail Shelf: A Cozy HTML/CSS Bookstore Project Guide

Project Overview

The Snail Shelf is a single-scroll, static-yet-interactive HTML/CSS bookstore website styled in soft pastels and cozy cottagecore vibes. It's run by Shelldon, a sleepy snail librarian who guides you through warm genre bins, secret notes, and relaxing reading nooks.

Aesthetic & Mood

Vibe: Soft, pastel, cozy cottagecore with whimsical elements.

Mascot: A sleepy snail librarian with glasses reading under a mushroom.

Color Palette:

- Warm Beige: #FFF8F0 (Background)
- Soft Sage Green: #B8D8BA (Accent)
- Blush Pink: #F4C6C6 (Accent)
- Muted Brown: #5C4033 (Text)
- Butter Yellow: #FFF5BA (Hover/Buttons)
- Dusty Lilac: #CDB4DB (Highlight)

Fonts:

- Headings: Gloock
- Body: Quicksand
- Optional: Caveat or Patrick Hand for handwritten notes

Full Page Structure

<header>: Logo, navbar with anchor links

<main>:

- Hero Section (#home)
- About Section (#about)
- Genre Shelves (#genres)
- Staff Picks (#staff-picks)
- Join the Club Form (#join)
- Contact Section (#contact)

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<footer>: Footer nav, credits, social links

Genre Shelves Section

- Each genre is a pastel shelf with styled book cards.
- Genres: Fantasy, Romance, Mystery, Cozy Non-Fiction, Comics
- Display: CSS Grid of 23 columns desktop, 1 column mobile
- Book Cards: Title, author, quote, star ratings, hover effect, expandable synopsis using <details> or checkbox trick
- Optional genre-specific colors + Book of the Month highlight

Shelldon Animation

A CSS-only snail mascot animation slides across the screen.

- Thought bubble changes every few seconds: 'One page at a time', 'Reading is my cardio'...
- Created using divs or SVG, and keyframe animations for movement and bubble swap.

HTML Concepts to Cover

- Semantic HTML5: <header>, <main>, <section>, <article>, <footer>
- Forms: <form>, <input>, <select>, <button>, <label>
- Media: , alt attributes
- Anchor navigation:

CSS Concepts to Cover

- Responsive Layouts: CSS Grid (shelves), Flexbox (cards)
- Typography: Google Fonts, text-shadow, font-weight
- Themes: CSS variables, hover states, pseudo-elements
- Animations: keyframes (snail, book hover tilt), transitions
- Positioning: sticky nav, z-index layering
- Form Styling: pastel inputs, rounded corners
- Media Queries: for mobile view

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- Cute details: tooltips, star ratings, floating effects

Section Details Summary

Hero: Shelldon + intro tagline + call to action

About: Story of the shop + snail + image

Genres: Interactive shelves with hover effects and info reveals

Staff Picks: Carousel or styled grid of top books

Form: Styled inputs, pastel button, CSS-only elements

Contact: Email/socials, <address>, optional snail postbox

Footer: Copyright + social buttons