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Homework 3 Evaluation

When completing this assignment, I had some difficulties with figuring out how to complete certain functionalities that I had not encountered before. For instance, I initially had trouble understanding how to update the storyline by storing the labelno in the data-index attribute of the two choice buttons. However, after consulting some helpful Piazza suggestions, I realized that I could retrieve the current labelno from the clicked button's data-index attribute and then call the updateStory function to set the data index to the next labelno.

In addition, since I had little prior experience working with AJAX calls, I wasn't sure at first if I was inputting the correct parameters to retrieve the desired data. However, printing the data output to the console helped me visualize the received data format, which made it much easier to retrieve the relevant information.

Another issue I faced was finding the right query to use when interacting with the Spotify API. In ajax.js, I noticed that all the '+' signs in the given albumName were being converted to their ascii equivalent, resulting in an invalid query. Thus, I solved this problem by changing the albumName to be "Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone Original Motion Picture Soundtrack" instead of "Harry+Potter+and+The+Sorcerer%27s+Stone+Original+Motion+Picture+Soundtrack%22%3B" (as approved by Professor Mohlke on Piazza).

Overall, this assignment showed me that AJAX can be used to easily retrieve information from both a database and a public API (external server). I also learned that making AJAX requests allows for quick communication with a database without interfering with the activity of other elements on a page. This advantage of AJAX allowed me to instantaneously delete a wizard from the database as soon as he/she was chosen from the Goblet of Fire.