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Project Proposal: MoodMates

Overview

MoodMates is a simple, social mood-tracking web app where users log their daily vibe, share it with friends, and visualize emotional trends over time. It's designed for fun, self-expression, and connection. It is both lighthearted and comprehensive.

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Motivation

Social media often feels performative, but traditional journaling apps feel private and serious. MoodMates strikes a balance between them. It is a minimal, emoji-based daily check-in where you and your friends can see each other's moods in a colorful, supportive feed.

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User Experience & Features

Core Interactions
- Sign up / Login – Secure user authentication via JWT.
- Log Mood – Select emoji or color (😊 😐 😞 etc.) and add an optional short note.
- Feed View – See friends' moods for the day in a scrolling, color-coded feed.
- History View – View your past moods as a week/month chart or color calendar.
- Friends System – Add or remove friends to share moods privately.

Stretch Features (optional)
- Daily "quote of the day" pulled from a public API.
- Streak counter for consistent mood logging.

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Similar Apps & Differentiation

Similar: Daylio (private mood tracker), BeReal (social check-in).
Different: MoodMates focuses on simplicity and connection, no complex journaling or photo sharing, just moods, colors, and quick insights.

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Technical Design

Frontend: React + Tailwind CSS (responsive, mobile-first UI)
Backend: Node.js + Express (RESTful API)
Database: PostgreSQL or SQLite (via Prisma ORM)
Auth: JWT-based authentication with HTTP-only cookies
External API (optional): "Quote of the Day" API for fun daily messages

Key Endpoints
- POST /auth/register – create account
- POST /auth/login – login
- POST /moods – submit daily mood
- GET /moods – get recent moods (feed)
- GET /moods/:userId – get a user's mood history
- POST /friends/:id – add/accept friend
- DELETE /friends/:id – remove friend

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Design & UX Focus
- Bright, friendly color palette tied to mood levels.
- Emoji-based logging for fast, universal input.
- Calendar & chart visualizations for reflection.
- Accessible design with ARIA labels and large touch targets.

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Heuristic Evaluation Plan

A small usability test with 3–5 classmates performing these tasks:

1. Log a mood for today.
2. Add a friend and view their mood in the feed.
3. Review your past moods in history view.

Feedback will be rated (0–4 severity). The top five issues (e.g., unclear icons, layout bugs) will be fixed and retested in one revision cycle.

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