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Project Title: PUPPET

One-Liner: PUPPET is an interactive story text, where the sentiment of the reader's input partially controls the puppet's behavior and emotions over time and eventually determines its fate.

We are proposing to build an interactive story text, where the reader's sentiments can influence the storyline to a certain extent. Our protagonists (and perhaps antagonists) are a fairy and the puppet she built to keep her company, and our story takes place on the moon, where our characters live in isolation. The story starts at the point when the puppet has absorbed enough grace from the heavens to ascend as a fairy -- if she can withstand the lightning that will strike down on any creature without a soul that aspires to ascend. Her relationship with her creator, the fairy, is also fraught with tension. The reasons will not be explicitly discussed -- we must leave some room for imagination.

The reader exerts partial control over the puppet's emotions and reactions -- the sentiment behind the reader's inputs may also affect the events that occur to the puppet. The reader's text will be inputted into a black box function, which will adjust the puppet's emotions. The events will not be described explicitly, nor will the puppet's reactions to them be shown -- the readers can only discern what has happened by analyzing the crests and troughs of the puppet's emotions, which are expressed through lines of poems randomly chosen from a previously compiled corpus. The lines will be chosen to match the sentiment that the puppet is feeling. We will use the sentiment analysis function from TextBlob to analyze the positivity and negativity of our poems, as well as the reader's inputs. Depending on the polarity (which takes on values from -1 to 1) of the reader's inputs, the output will be a couplet of poetic lines that often matches the sentiment of the input. This process repeats until we reach either a positive or negative threshold, at which we have a final ending.

There are two possible results: one is where the puppet withstands the lightning and ascends as a fairy. This will only happen if she resolves her conflicts with her friend. The other result is where she cannot hold her own against the lightning -- but she does not suffer the consequences. Whether she uses her friend as a shield, or her friend does it willingly, is up to the reader's understanding. Whatever the explanation, the story will end in this case with two puppets sitting silently in the lunar terminator.

Our intention is to craft a story about a complicated friendship and express it with poetry. As with all human interactions, a part of the story can be controlled through human efforts, and the rest is left up to random chance. What better way to tell this story than through a puppet aspiring to become real?

The sources we drew the lines from -- sometimes modified to fit our narrative -- are listed below:

- Fire and Ice by Robert Frost
- I Do Not Love You Except Because I Love You, Pablo Neruda
- Shakespeare's Sonnet 142
- Let Such Pure Hate Still Underprop - Henry David Thoreau
- Nothing But Death by Pablo Neruda
- Noonday Sun by Woodrow Lucas
- To the Moon and Back by Savage Garden
- HAPPINESS BY RAYMOND CARVER
- Song of Myself by Walt Whitman
- If— by Rudyard Kipling
- I remember by Anne Sexton
- I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud by William Wordsworth
- Crush by Richard Siken
- Sonnets to Orpheus by Rainer Maria Rilke (Translator: Stephen Mitchell)
- Duino Elegies by Rainer Maria Rilke (Translator: Stephen Mitchell)
- No, I Wasn't Meant to Love and be Loved by Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib (Translator: Vijay Seshadri)
- somewhere i have never travelled, gladly beyond by E. E. Cummings
- War of the Foxes by Richard Siken
- Confessions: My Father, Hummingbirds, and Frantz Fanon by Benjamin Alire Saenz
- Selected Poems, 1965-1975 by Margaret Atwood
- And We Shall Not Get Excited by Yehuda Amichai
- A Pity, We Were Such a Good Invention by Yehuda Amichai
- Do Not Accept by Yehuda Amichai
- Try to Remember Some Details by Yehuda Amichai
- Morning in the Burned House by Margaret Atwood
- Flying Inside Your Own Body by Margaret Atwood
- Is/Not Poem by Margaret Atwood
- Variations on the Word Love by Margaret Atwood
- More and More by Margaret Atwood
- In the Secular Night by Margaret Atwood
- Letters to a Young Poet by Rainer Maria Rilke (Translator: Stephen Mitchell)
- Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel
- An Experiment in Love by Hilary Mantel
- A Place of Greater Safety by Hilary Mantel