Regular Expression Wizardry

Josiah Mory

@kickinbahk

A regular expression is a pattern describing a specific string of text

A regular expression "engine" is a piece of software that can process regular expressions, trying to match the pattern to the given string

The syntax and behavior of a particular engine is called a regular expression flavor

3 Things You Do w/ RegEx

Dave Thomas - Pickaxe Book

- Test - a string to see if it matches your pattern
- Extract - a string (or part of a string) that matches your pattern
- Change - a string by replacing parts that match with other text

"Find-and-Replace on Steroids".- Dan Nguyen

Literal Characters

Most Characters (a-z, A-Z, 0-9, ect…)

Special Characters

12 special or (meta) characters

\, ^, $, ., |, ?,*, +, (,), [, [,

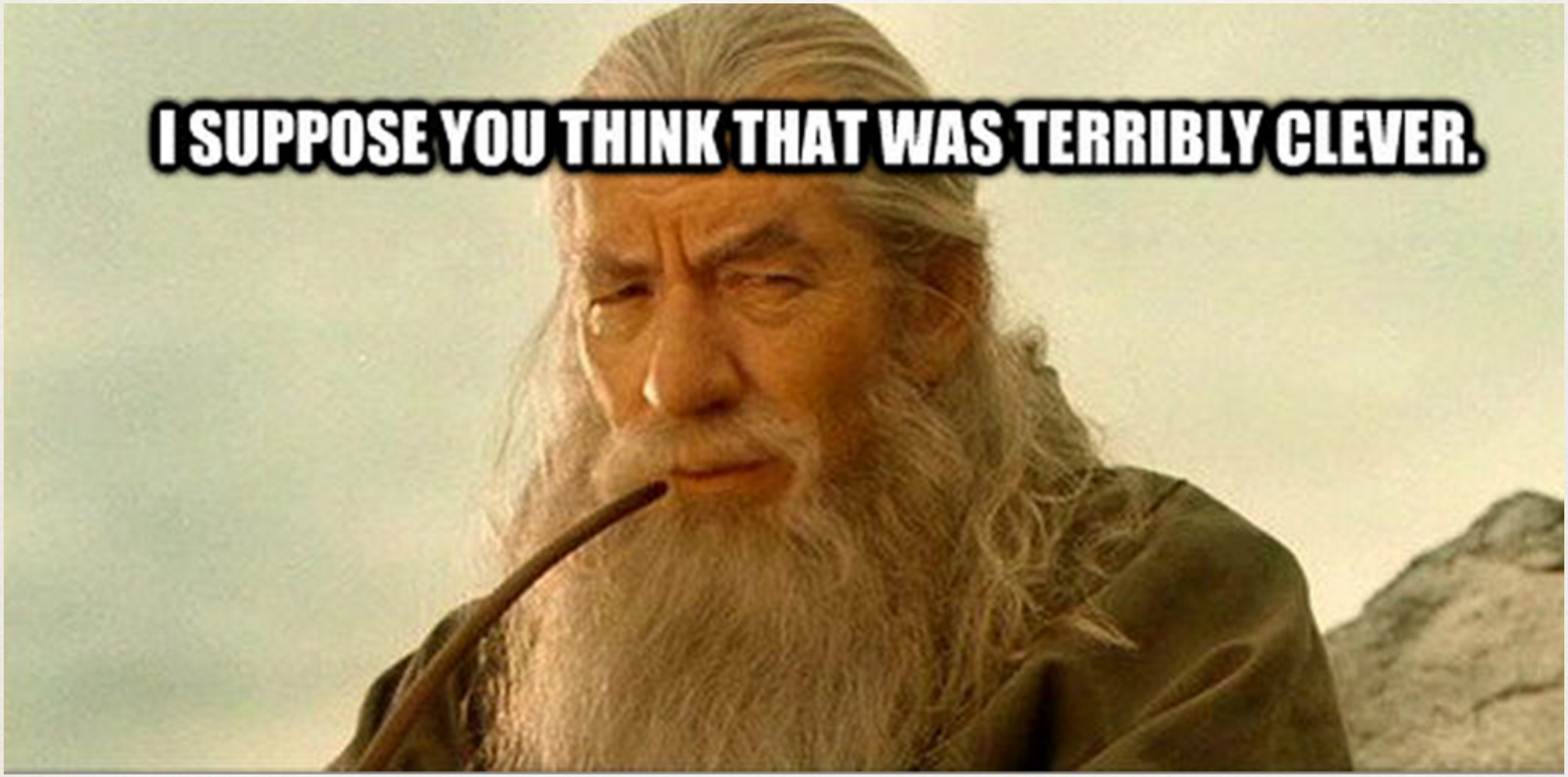
*If you want to use any of these characters as a literal in a regex, you need to escape them with a backslash

```
gandalf_quote1 = "You shall not pass! -Gandalf"

the_grey = “ The Grey”

puts gandalf_quote + the_grey
```

=> You shall not pass! -Gandalf The Grey

```
gandalf_quote2 = "Yes, yes my dear sir and I do know your name Mr.
    Bilbo Baggins. And you do know my name, though you don't
remember that I belong to it. I am Gandalf, and Gandalf, means me."
```

```
gandalf_quote2 = "Yes, yes my dear sir and I do know your name Mr.
Bilbo Baggins. And you do know my name, though you don't
remember that I belong to it. I am Gandalf #{the_grey}, and Gandalf
#{the_grey} means me."
```


I SUPPOSE YOU THINK THAT WAS TERRIBLY CLEVER.

Lookarounds

- Lookahead - ?=
- Lookbehind - ?<=

The Bastards Book of Regular Expressions - Dan Nguyen
http://regex.bastardsbook.com/

Rublar (RegEx Tester and Editor for Ruby)
http://rubular.com/

Ruby Docs on RegEx
http://ruby-doc.org/core-2.1.1/Regexp.html

Using Regular Expressions in Ruby — Nell Shamrell
https://www.blueboxcloud.com/insight/blog-article/using-regular-expressions-in-ruby-part-1-of-3