Process of Selection of Poems

Searched for the most famous poets and found a website that provided the top 50 poets then chose 5 poems for each of the top 5 poets on the web site (link listed below).

<http://www.famouspoetsandpoems.com/top_poems.html>

Parsed the lyrics of the 5 poets and their poems using BeautifulSoup 4 in python with Jupyter Notebook.

Some of the surprises encountered along the way:

Initially when drilling down, I was able to determine that the information that I wanted was in a div tag. But getting to the specific one was by trial and error. But with help from my team members and TAs, the mission was accomplished.

When attempting to extract the poems of E.E. Cummings, I came to a link that lead to a message instead of the expected lyrics to the poems. The message read:

‘Unfortunately this poem has been removed from our archives at the insistence of the copyright holder.’

Luckily, I had a wealth of poets and their lyrics on this website. So I chose the next poet in the list who happened be ‘Edgar Allan Poe’.

This is when I discovered a bug in my code for separating the title from the author. I had taken a line from the website that combined both the tiltle an author in one string that read as follows:

‘Phenomenal Woman – Poem by Maya Angelou’

And split it at the hyphen (‘-‘) to separate the author from the poem title. And then stripped the second line of the ‘Poem by’ text.

However, now that I was extracting the author Edgar Allan Poe the string extract read as:

‘The Raven – Poem by Edgar Allan ‘

Hey where did the last name of the poet ‘Poe’ go?

This is when I discovered that the strip function removes both leading and trailing text from the string. So that was why Pablo Neruda was missing ‘P’ earlier.

Grabbing a substring of the string worked better than stripping. I originally thought that the strip function removed only leading white space but not so. So I learned something new.

Up until now, I was avoiding Web Scraping like the plague. But I am glad that I embraced something with which I did not have a lot of knowledge nor experience. I will continue to build my skill set in this area. I am glad that I at least had the courage to dip my big toe in it.

The top 5 poets are listed below and 5 poems for each poet were selected:

**Maya Angelou**

Phenomenal Woman

Still I Rise

Touched By An Angel

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings

Woman Work

**Shel Silverstein**

Where The Sidewalk Ends

Messy Room

Bear In There

Whatif

Rain

**Pablo Neruda**

Saddest Poem

If You Forget Me

Always

Walking Around

Love

**Edgar Allen Poe**

A Dream Within A Dream

The Raven

Romance

Alone

Song

**Robert Frost**

The Road Not Taken

Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening

Nothing Gold Can Stay

The Lockless Door

The Sound Of The Trees