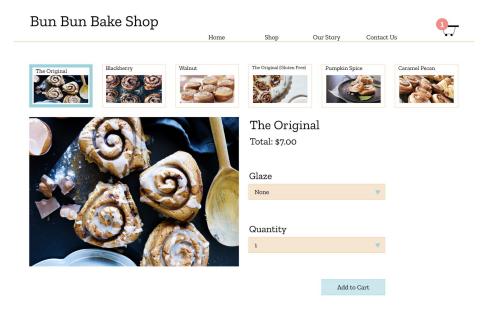Molly Schaefer
Homework 5 Reflection
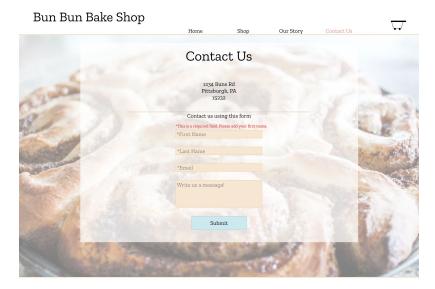
My website can be found at: https://molschaef.github.io/homework_5/
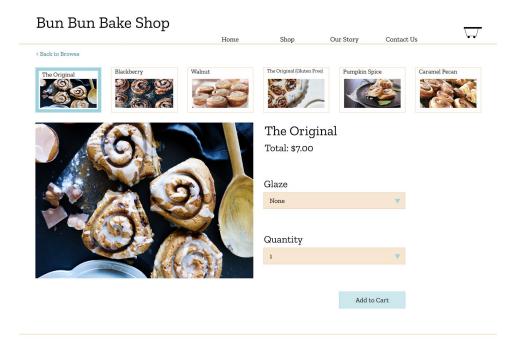
Heuristic Evaluation

1. The first bug I found in my heuristic evaluation pertains to heuristic #6: Recognition rather than recall. Once the user puts something in their cart, there is no indication on the page that there is something in their cart. If they user tries to add more to their cart, they may be wondering how much they have already added to their cart. To address this issue, I have put a number on the shopping cart in the upper right-hand corner to signify to the user how much they have already added to their cart.

2. The second heuristic I would like to address is heuristic #9: Help users recognize, diagnose, and recover from errors. In my previous design, there were three required fields in the contact form. If the user clicked submit without filling one in, there was no error message to indicate what they missed. I have fixed this bug by including an explicit error message right above the field where the error exists.

3.   The third bug I have found in my previous design involves heuristic #3: User control and freedom. When a user selects a flavor from the "Shop" page, there is no clear way to go back to the previous screen. Since the user may have selected a flavor by mistake, there should be an easy way to backtrack. To fix this bug, I have included a "Back to Browse" link on the top left corner of the product details page.

Challenges

During this process I encountered several challenges. Alignment seemed to pose the biggest challenge for me. While creating the navigation bar, it was difficult to get the navigation items to line up exactly how I wanted with the store name on the left. To address this challenge,

I utilized the "Inspect" functionality in Chrome to see what the margins and padding looked like. This helped me understand how to change the style in order to get the desired outcome.

Additionally, grids were a challenge to work with. I used grids on the browse and the product details pages. In both circumstances, I started with grids that overflowed off the page and were much larger than I had wanted. My goal was to keep everything in a single page without scrolling, so I needed the size of the grids to fit the page. To address this challenge, I went back to Codecademy to refresh myself on what we had learned there about grids. I was able to apply what we learned from Codecademy to create the custom grid I wanted.

Finally, After running my HTML and CSS through the validators, I was made aware of a few minor bugs:

1. HTML: None of my images had alt attributes. To address this I went back to my HTML and updated each individual image with an alt attribute.
2. HTML: I was using an unescaped "<" in the "< Back to Shop" link on the product details pages. I fixed this by replacing the "<" with "<".
3. CSS: I received a value error that said, "float center is not a float value : center". To fix this, I removed this line altogether because it was unnecessary.
4. CSS: I received a second value error that said, "padding Parse Error left: 10px". I removed this line as well since it was not contributing to the style of the webpage.

Design Choices

Bun Bun Bake Shop has delicious looking buns that draw customers into their shop, and a simplicity to their style to maintain the focus on the cinnamon buns being sold in the shop. This brand identity is reflected in my design through enticing imagery on the homepage, and an overall simple design throughout the rest of the site. The look and feel of the site is meant to align with the brand's identity and decrease distraction. Customers are drawn in by the homepage imagery but once they've started the shopping process there are no distractions from the task at hand: buying cinnamon buns. While the brand may be simple, they still offer a joyful atmosphere. The design includes pops of color throughout the site to maintain simplicity but display sparks of joy.