

John Cage's "Roaratorio" Score
as
Requirements Specification for MesosticMachine
Martin Dowling, January 2018

1. Choosing a book.

- 1.1. The user shall choose a book that is in the public domain, and transfer the book to a file in UTF 8 format with a .txt extension.
- 1.2. If the book is not in the public domain, the user shall obtain permission for its use from those owning the copyright.
- 1.3. Failing that, the user shall make section 2 of this document in such a way that no relationships of words occur that occur in the original, or encode your text so that the original words are not represented by themselves (change the title of your work accordingly).

2. Making Mesostics.

- 2.1. The system shall allow the user to input and save the name of the author and/or the title of the book as the subject of the row.
- 2.2. The system shall allow the user to create and save to a .txt file in UTF8 format a series of mesostics beginning on the first page of the book and continuing to the last.
- 2.3. If a shorter rather than longer text is desired by the user, the system shall allow the user to keep an index of the syllables used to represent a given letter, not permitting for a single appearance of a given letter the repetition of a particular syllable, and distinguishing between subsequent appearances of the same letter.
- 2.4. The system shall allow the user to add adjacent words from the original text (before and/or after the middle word, the word including a letter of the row) according to taste, limited, say to forty-three characters to the left and forty-three to the right, providing the appearance of the letters of the row occurs in the way described above.
- 2.5. The system shall remove punctuation and capitalize the row, reducing all other capitals to lower case.
- 2.6. If at the end of the book or a chapter of it a mesostic is not complete, the system shall leave it incomplete (or complete it by returning to the first page of the book or chapter and continuing your search for words containing the necessary letters).
- 2.7. The system shall identify each mesostic line by page and line of the original word from which it came.

3. Making a list of places

- 3.1. The system shall make a list of places mentioned in the book.
- 3.2. The system shall make a list for each of the pages and lines where the mention is made for each place.
- 3.3. If the list once made is unmanageably long, the system shall provide functionality to reduce the list in some chance-determined way, e.g. to a number equal to the number of pages in the book.

4. Making a list of sounds.

- 4.1. The system shall allow the user to make a list of sounds mentioned in the book
- 4.2. The system shall make a list for each of the pages and lines where the mention of each sound is made.