

Rissa Lee
PUI Assignment 8
Date submitted: 12/06/19

Link to repo: <https://github.com/rissajlee/rissajlee.github.io/tree/master/puiFinal>

Link to website: <https://rissajlee.github.io/puiFinal/index.html>

Part 1

My website's purpose is to increase awareness about Italo Calvino's works by using the illustrations designed by [Peter Mendelsund](#) for his recent book redesign series (for the publishing company [Houghton Mifflin Harcourt](#)). The information provided by my website includes some key turning points in Italo Calvino's life, and a visual display of his notable works along with short summaries of the books.

I made my website interesting by giving "life" to Italo Calvino's books in the second half of the homepage; I photoshopped the book covers so that at first the user only sees the colorful iconography that represents each of the 6 books. Then, I gave the icons "life" by having them pulse, enticing users to explore and hover over them. Once users hover over the illustrations, they see the titles appear and can click on the illustrations to read a brief summary of the books in an overlay on the same page.

On the second webpage, I created a timeline of important turning points in Calvino's life. I featured an audio clip of him speaking about humanism as well. I believed that being able to hear Calvino's voice would help users better connect to the author and this could build more interest in his works. Underneath this, I placed events that are revealed slowly as the user scrolls down the page; this reveal is meant to evoke "walking through" Calvino's life with him.

The target audience for my website are those who (1) are already interested in literature and have not yet read Italo Calvino's works, (2) have seen the illustrations by Peter Mendelsund for the Calvino books or other books and are drawn into the website by the designs, or (3) love Calvino, much like myself, and would like to see an interactive website dedicated to him.

Part 2

- On the Homepage, users can click on the illustration of Calvino to reach the second webpage where they can learn more about the author and his life. When hovering on his illustration, the image changes to a brighter color with an arrow that prompts them to go to the other page.
- On the Homepage, users can interact with the pulsing images of the book covers by clicking on them. After the click, an overlay appears near the book cover and gives a brief summary about what the book is about. To exit out of the overlay, users click again on the overlay.
- On the Timeline page, users can click on the media player to listen to a recording of Italo Calvino's real voice.

- On the Timeline page, users can scroll down the page to see important turning points in Italo Calvino's life emerge dynamically as they read about his journey through life.

Part 3

- Animate CSS
 - I chose to use this tool because I wanted to make the book cover illustrations more dynamic. By adding movement to them, I thought that users would be more compelled to interact with the book covers.
 - I used the "pulse" feature in Animate CSS to give "life" to the book cover illustrations. Additionally, I staggered the pulses so that the entire grid of covers did not seem too uniform.
 - These animations add dynamic visuals to my website and draw in the attention of users. The ultimate goal is for users to click on the covers, and I believed that increasing their movement was key to achieving the goal.
- Scroll Reveal JS Library
 - I chose to use this tool because I wanted to have the Calvino timeline feel like a journey, and not just a static image. By having things appear one by one as a user scrolled down the screen, I evoked a "step-by-step" or "event-by-event" experience.
 - I used scroll reveal on every event within the timeline so that the entire page was dynamic. I also adjusted the delay for each scroll so that the journey down the page did not seem too uniform.
 - The scroll reveal adds a pace to the timeline, like the way a real life would unfold one moment at a time. Also, in a way, it forces users to read each event and fully immerse themselves into Calvino's life.

Part 4

- In my HW7 mockup, I originally used circles to represent the books on the homepage, but I decided to create icons of the book cover illustrations instead because I felt like the illustrations were more visually interesting and more directly related to the books. I also originally used separate pages to display the summaries of the books, but I switched to overlays because I wanted users to be able to more easily access the summaries of all books at once rather than having to travel to multiple pages. Finally, on the timeline webpage, I added in the audio of Calvino's voice and upgraded from a more typical timeline to a dynamic scroll reveal timeline for a more engaging experience for users.

Part 5

- I ran into a lot of bugs when trying to make the website responsive, especially breaks in between standard screen sizes. I also ran into a lot of difficulties when implementing the overlays, specifically their positioning near their respective book covers across all screen sizes.