Generating a Word Cloud

Once you have all the required parts of the assignment working, you can use your program to generate a word cloud.

A word cloud (or tag cloud) is a visual representation of text. In our case the cloud will give greater prominence (bigger font) to words that appear more frequently in the text.

Check out http://www.wordle.net/ for an example.

I have written a function **draw_cloud()** (included in the template file) that will generate a word cloud for you. By the end of this course, you'll be able to write your own.

draw_cloud() takes two parameters: draw_cloud(input_count, min_length=0)

input_count is a dictionary representing the words in the file and their corresponding counts.

You will probably have to build that dictionary to complete the required parts of this assignment.

The dictionary has items of the form: word: count

Example: {'the': 4332, 'abatement': 1, etc...}

draw_cloud also takes an optional second parameter, min_length. It is the minimum length of the words that will appear in the cloud representation. So if you don't want to see one and two letter words, you can set min_length to 3.

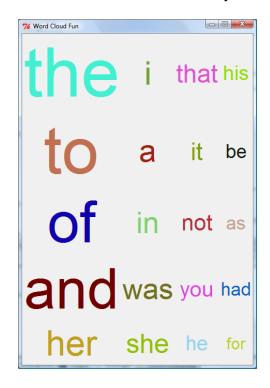
draw_cloud() only includes the 20 most common words (that satisfy the minimum length criteria) in the generated cloud.

To call draw_cloud, add the following line at the very end of your main function. It is included in the template, but commented out.

draw_cloud(word_count)

word_count is the dictionary you generated based on the input text.

Word Cloud from Pride and Prejudice with the min_length parameter defaulting to 0:



Word Cloud from Pride and Prejudice with the min_length parameter set to 5 - draw_cloud(word_count, 5):



To exit the program, you'll have to close the cloud window.