

Graphical Interface for Reading and Writing Notes on Novels

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Overviews of novels for study purposes are often very boring nature. Usually at most when you see interfaces there might be different tabs on the screen or tables. This isn't useful to more visual learners and in general is on the boring side, it's purely functional. *To Kill a Mockingbird* on Wikipedia is just a long wall of text separated by different headings[2]. On sparknotes it has a table of contents and then paging through the information presented[1]. I think novels could have more graphical interfaces for instance instead of Sparknote's Character List there might be a web with main characters in the center and cursory characters branching out from there. Selecting a character would then bring up that character's specific profile detailing their role in the story. Plot summaries would be displayed in an actual plot line showing the rising and falling actions. Ideally users could in a wiki-like format edit or create their own notes for novels or look at those already created by others. This would be useful for students looking to find notes or create notes on novels they have to study for class. It could also function as an organizer for novelists and storywriters in general. ThinkPort as a starting point provides a number of different pre-formatted organizers that could be used as general ideas of how different views in the organizer might display[3]. To examine its effectiveness we could present this alongside Sparknotes and Wikipedia and have students read from each and answer basic content quizzes to see which format they were able to find the information in fastest. They could also give subjective answers on which of the looks and feels worked best.

References

1. (2013). *To Kill a Mocking Bird*. Sparknotes. <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/mocking/>
2. (2013). *To Kill a Mocking Bird*. Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_Kill_a_Mockingbird
3. (2013). Graphic Organizer. ThinkPort. Maryland Public Television & Johns Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education. <http://www.thinkport.org/technology/template.tp>

