I started a book club in January on the 3 hour train ride back to the city from Yale, where my colleague and I gave a talk at our mutual friend Laurel’s interactive design class.

It was totally a putting the horse before the cart moment because the domain name b00k.club was available and we got really animated joking about the sorts of dumb features the website would have.

When we finally met for our first book Laurel led the discussions. Because leading discussions at a graduate level was her bread and butter her questions were extremely smart/probing and resulted in really interesting longform answers. Consequently a group of near strangers got really intimate in a relatively short period of time and was able to become really close friends.

Anyway the B00k Club member who was in charge of making the website never really followed through so I am about to take it on as my class project.

The only real purpose the website has is to display when and where the next book club meeting is taking place. But it would be fun to also junk it up with all sorts of needless details and functionalities, in the same way that book club meetings end up being drunken dinner party slash therapy session anyway.

Asides from having it be a sort of elaborate joke for the club, ideally I would like the website to express some of the best aspects of the b00k.club experience.

I think a cool feature of the site would be a place where you post some interesting thoughts about the book and whatnot. The reason is because it’s kind of annoying to spam other memebers’ email inboxes (being on a group email chain is painful) and having a slack channel would be too self-important and feel like homework; but posting a quick note on a webpage that is disguised as an elaborate joke anyway would be just fine.

In addition to being informative and a place to share your thoughts/favorite quotes the website will also be a sort of dumping ground of all club-related paraphernalia, like joke book jackets and book marks and joke totes.

At the end of the day it will be a neat exercise in distilling an experience into a look and feel on web and mobile. And I’m excited to make this because it has a built-in audience and its silly content will be self-amusing and keep me going long enough at least until its completion.