

This is an assignment I have used multiple times in my undergraduate Computer and Text classes (ENGL 467), either with short stories or the novel Frankenstein.

"Use the HTML skills you have learned to create a *visualization* of a 750-word portion of the text (about 2 pages) of your own choosing.

"You can find an electronic edition of the novel here. Copy and paste the portion of the text you want to work with into your HTML file(s).

"*Visualizing* the work entails adding HTML markup to the electronic text to create a visual environment that somehow--and here's where you'll each have to work hardest to conceptualize your individual project--performs an *interpretation* of the text.

"The interpretation will involve more than simply adding pictures, backgrounds, or other superficial features. Nor does it mean writing critical commentary. Rather, you will each need to think about how the electronic space you are creating functions as an extension of the original text, simultaneously complicating and communicating its core themes.

"The text need not all be on the same page, or accessible in a linear fashion; for example, you may wish to use links to disperse the original text across a number of different pages.

"Grades will be based upon the thoughtfulness and imaginative quality of the project; flashy design for its own sake will not be rewarded. If you have advanced Web design skills you are welcome to make use of them, but everyone is capable of earning an "A" using only the HTML I have taught in class. Like the still-life in classical painting, sometimes simple is best.

"The project should be built in your WAM account. It should include a title page with a short prose introduction that articulates a rationale for your visualization: explain the concept or strategy behind what you've done, and discuss how the process of visualizing (or you might think of it as performing) the text in HTML has changed the way you've thought about it. Please also be sure to include your name and an email link. Mail me the link when you're ready for me to evaluate it."

Matthew Kirschenbaum