

Emotional and meaning arcs of stories

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Principles of Complex Systems,
Vols. 1, 2, 3D, 4 Fourever, V for Vendetta

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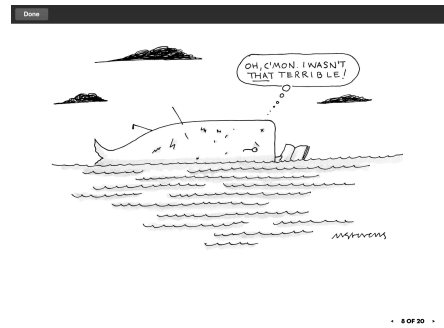
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The New Yorker, December 16, 2013, p. 56.

Aside: From a 2013 Believer Magazine [interview](#) with Maurice Sendak [↗](#):

BLVR: Did the success of *Where the Wild Things Are* ever feel like an albatross?

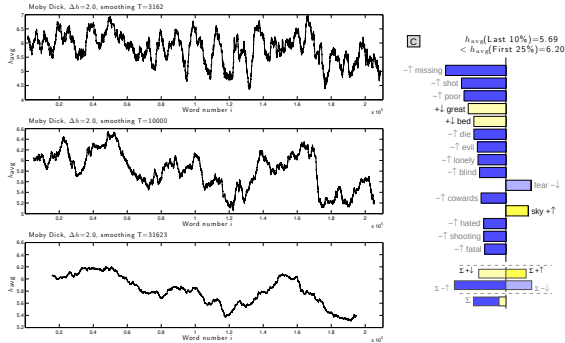
MS: It's a nice book. It's perfectly nice. I can't complain about it. I remember Herman Melville said, "When I die no one is going to mention Moby-Dick. They're all going to talk about my first book, about forking maidens in Tahiti." He was right. No mention of Moby-Dick then. Everyone wanted another Tahitian book, a beach book. But then he kept writing deeper and deeper and then came Moby-Dick and people hated it. The only ones who liked it were Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Hawthorne. Moby-Dick didn't get famous until 1930.

 Sendak named his dog Herman.

 The essential (true) Colbert interview:
Pt. 1 [↗](#) and Pt. 2 [↗](#).

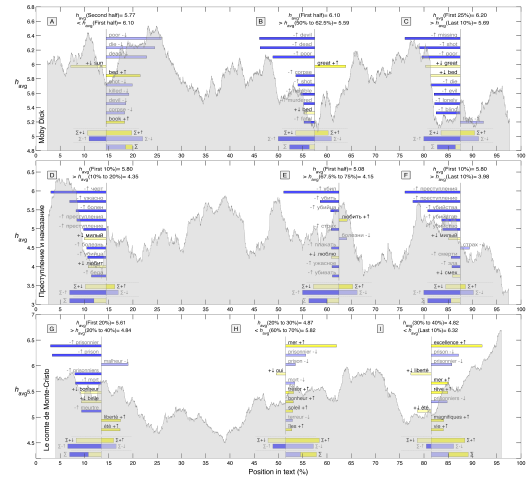
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The emotional shapes of stories—Moby Dick:

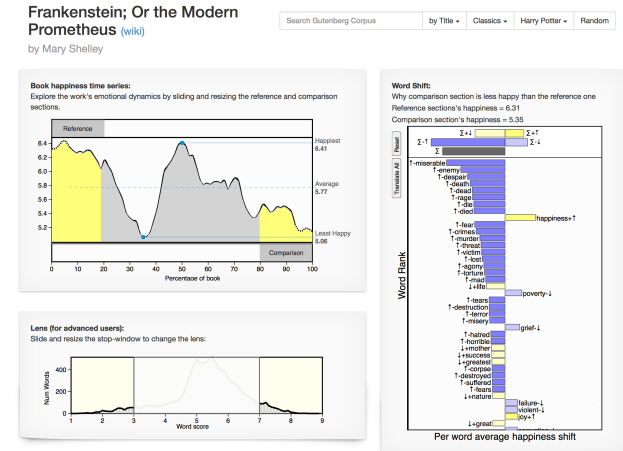


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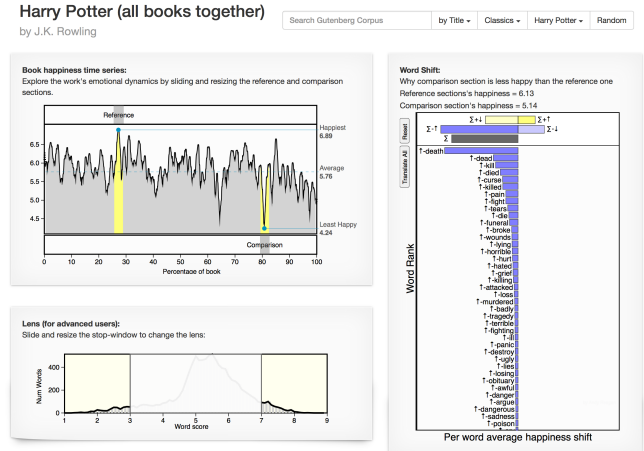
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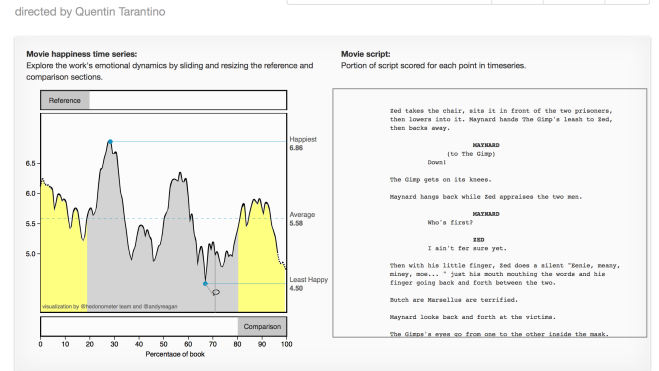
Online, interactive Emotional Shapes of Stories [↗](#) for 10,000+ books:

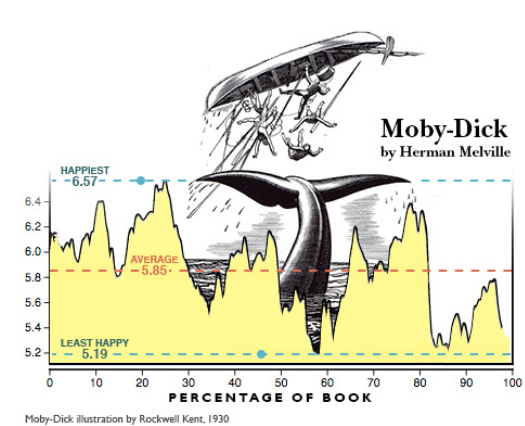


Online, interactive Emotional Shapes of Stories [↗](#) for 10,000+ books:

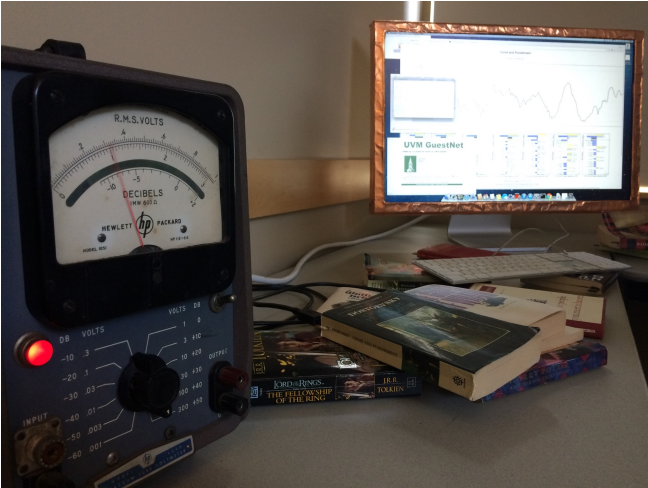


Online, interactive Emotional Shapes of Stories [↗](#) for 1,000+ movie scripts:





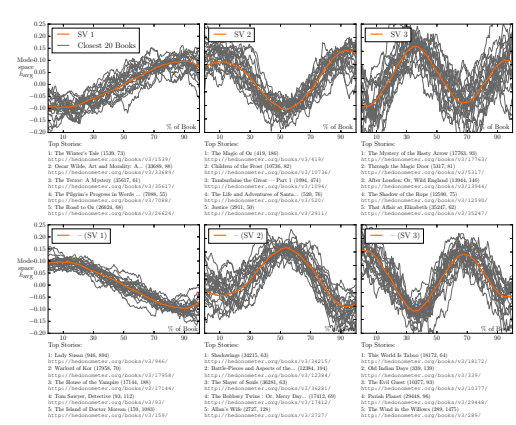
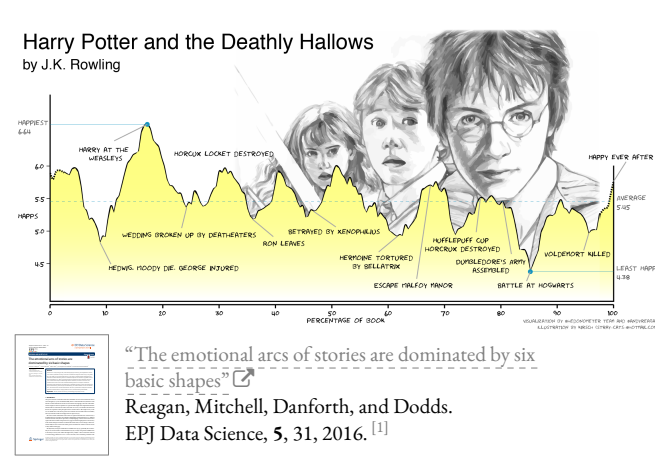
http://whyfiles.org/2015/in-10-languages-happy-words-beat-sad-ones/



Stories with a few ups and downs most downloaded:

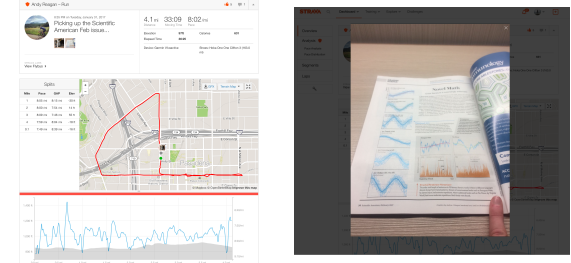
Mode	Mode Arc	N_m	N_m/N	DL Mean ∇	DL Mean ∇	DL Variance	Download Distribution
SV 1		263	15.1%	295.0	644.3	2207201	
-SV 1		442	25.3%	337.5	636.0	913464	
SV 2		230	13.2%	314.0	630.3	1058916	
-SV 2		169	9.7%	296.0	569.1	780365	
SV 3		104	6.0%	298.0	874.5	7826797	
-SV 3		108	6.2%	298.0	748.7	2517822	
SV 4		108	6.2%	316.0	848.8	2763060	
-SV 4		50	2.9%	292.0	770.7	1546202	
SV 5		48	2.7%	280.0	421.7	182443	
-SV 5		48	2.7%	263.5	462.0	211259	

FIG. 6: Download statistics for SVD Modes with more than 2.5% of books. Modes SV 3 through -SV 4 (both polarities of modes 3 and 4) exhibit a higher average number of downloads and more variance than the rest.

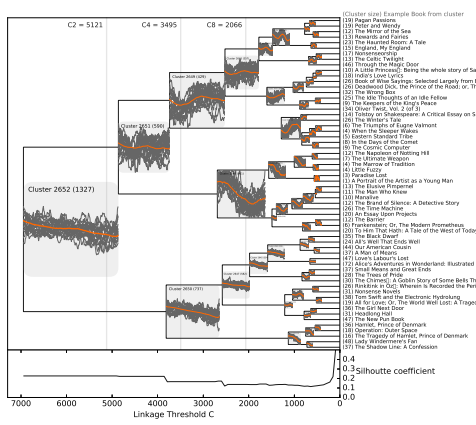


Six basic shapes: Rags-to-Riches, Man-in-a-hole, Cinderella, Tragedy, Icarus, Oedipus.

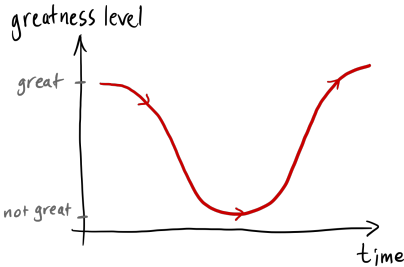
Another Great Moment in being Andy Reagan:



Emotional arcs for 1748 books from gutenberg.org



"So, in writing, there are six basic plots, and their sequels and derivative franchises."



- Used in advertising for Reagan and Bush in 1980.
- Template used by many others including Bill Clinton.

[1] A. J. Reagan, L. Mitchell, C. M. Danforth, and P. S. Dodds.
The emotional arcs of stories are dominated by six basic shapes.

[EPJ Data Science](#), 5:31, 2016.
Available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/1606.06820>. pdf [↗](#)

