How to write a novel using open source software
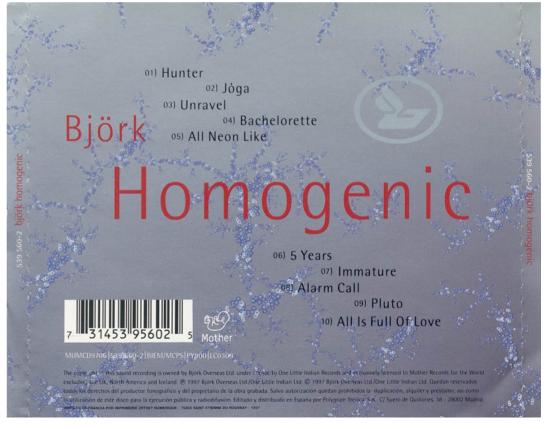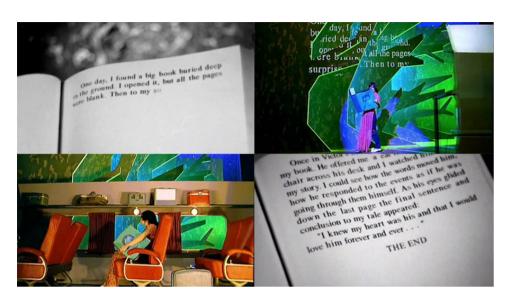
Introduction to bibisco

Andrea Feccomandi
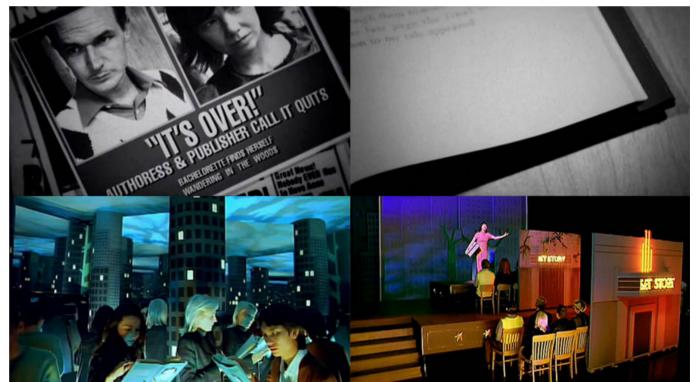
The story of bibisco started in 1997
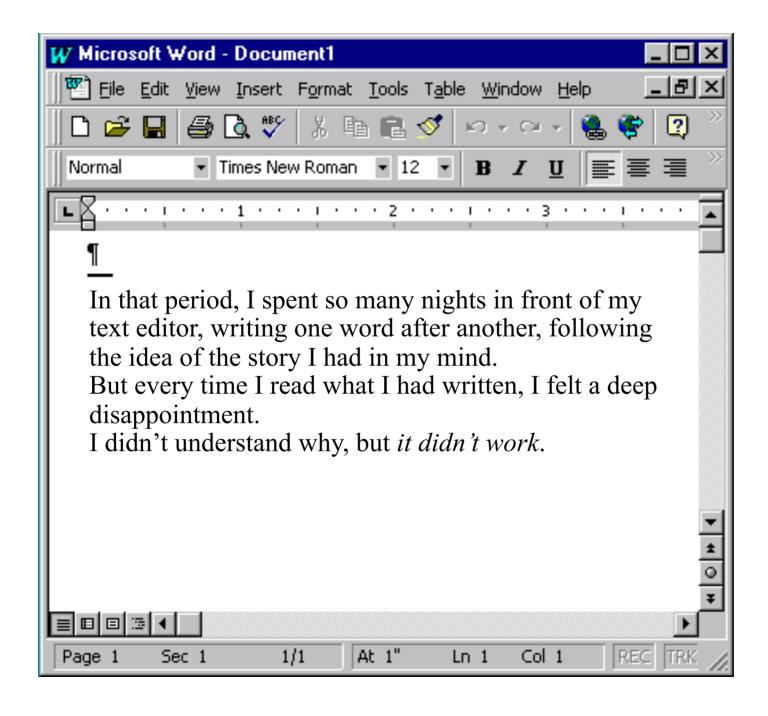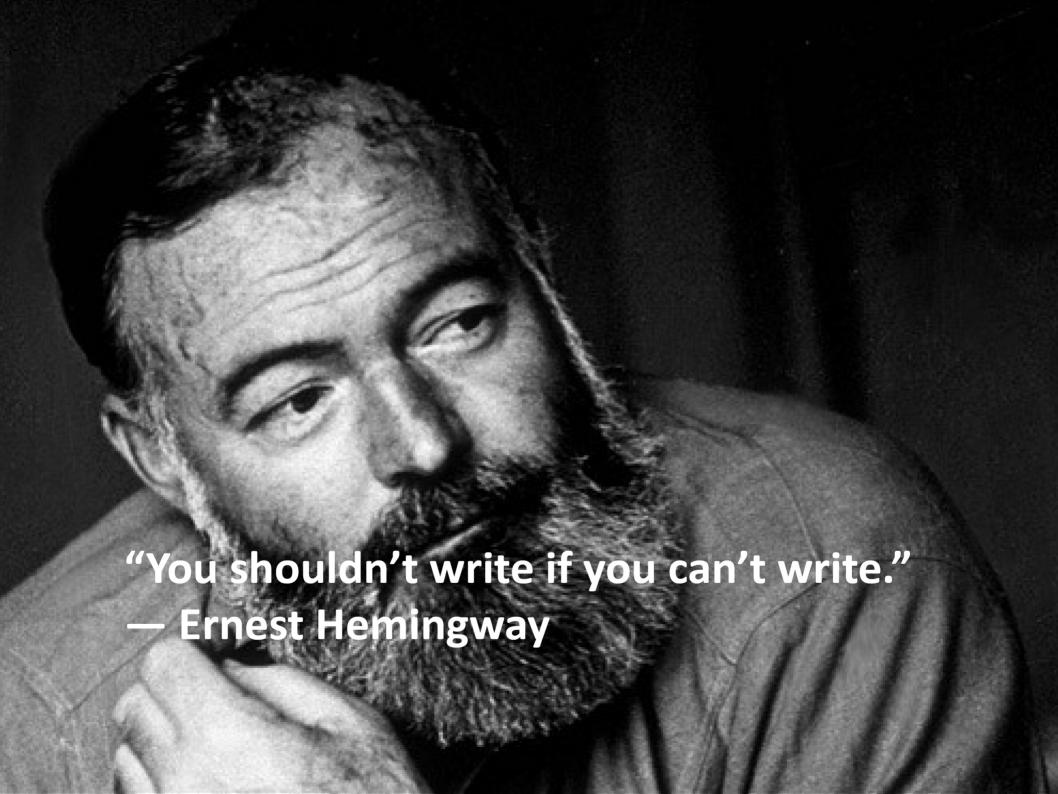
ever since I was a child I've loved reading, but…

…the video impressed me so much that an urgency to write came over me

In that period, I spent so many nights in front of my text editor, writing one word after another, following the idea of the story I had in my mind.
But every time I read what I had written, I felt a deep disappointment.
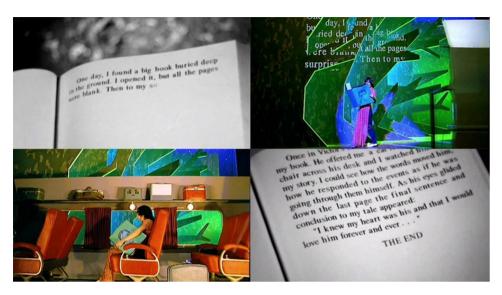I didn't understand why, but *it didn't work*.

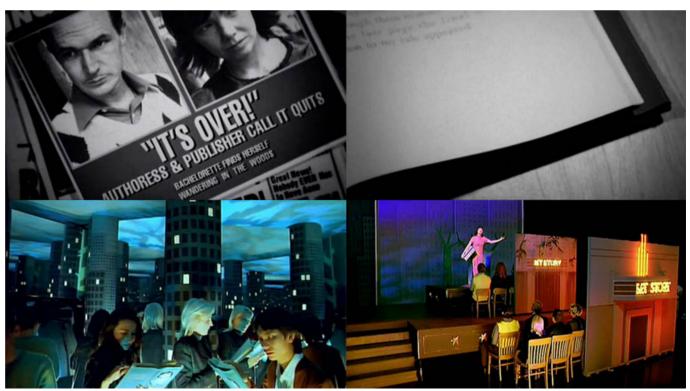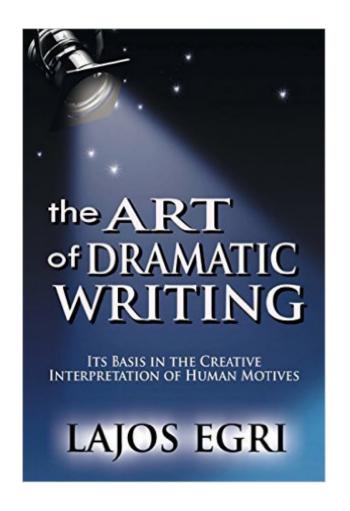"You shouldn't write if you can't write."
— Ernest Hemingway
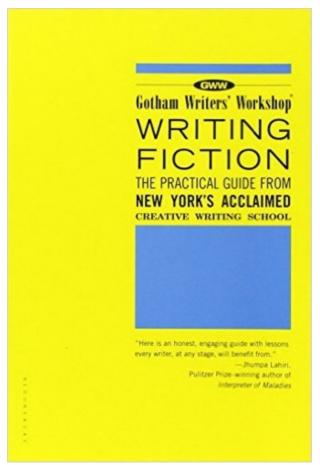
many years later I happened to watch the video again…
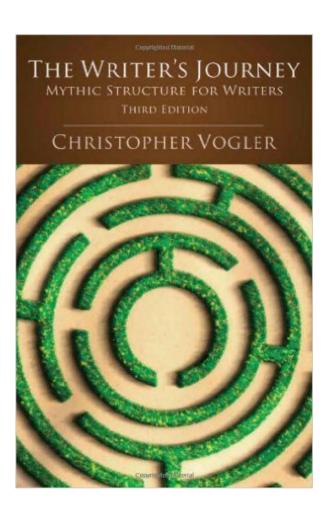
…and that urgency to write came back over me

Lesson #1

the idea of
the novelist
who writes
guided only by
the sacred
fire of
inspiration is
quite naive.
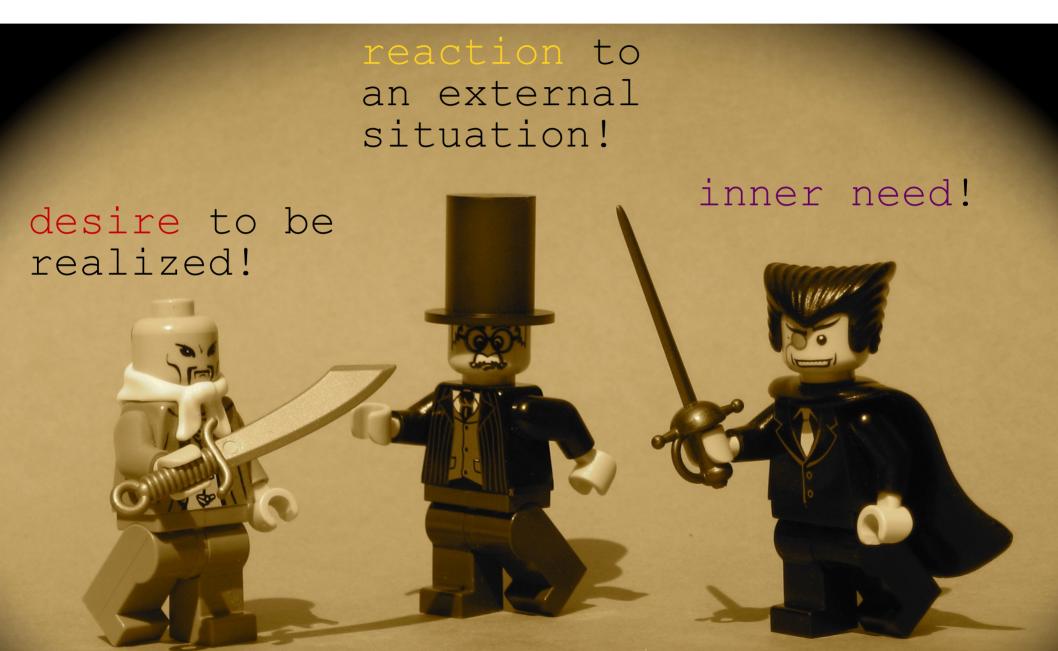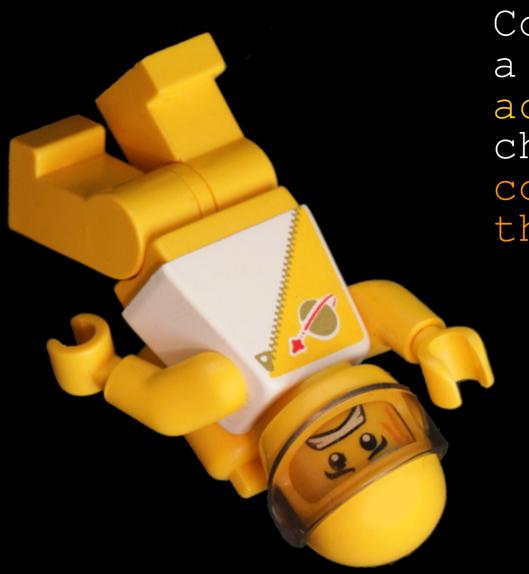
Conflict leads a character to action and to change the condition of things.

a novel is the **story of a change** in the condition of things…

…and of the evolution of characters during this process

There is no novel without conflict.
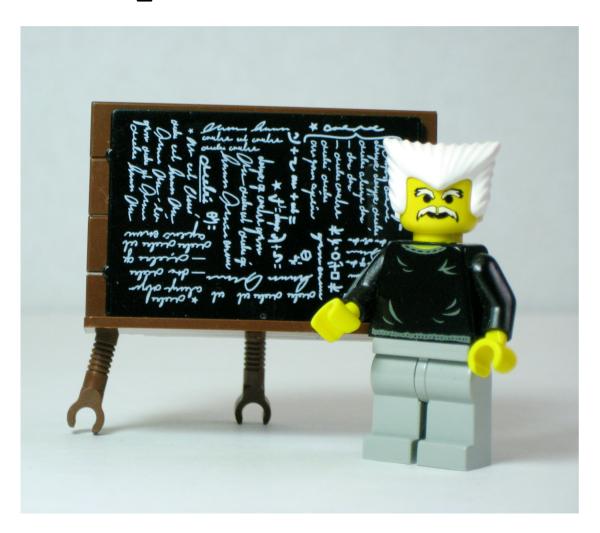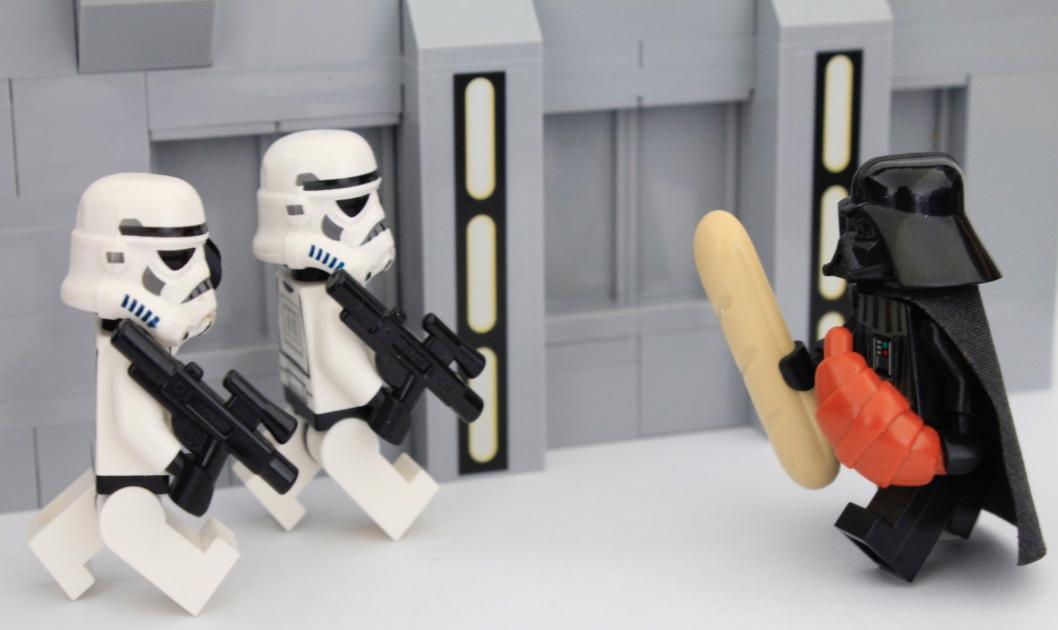
It's all about characters, baby…

… novels only work if their characters are believable!

Characters that are completely good
or completely evil are stereotypes
and therefore are not believable.

Characters
are
believable
when you can
understand
the
complexity
of their
human
nature.
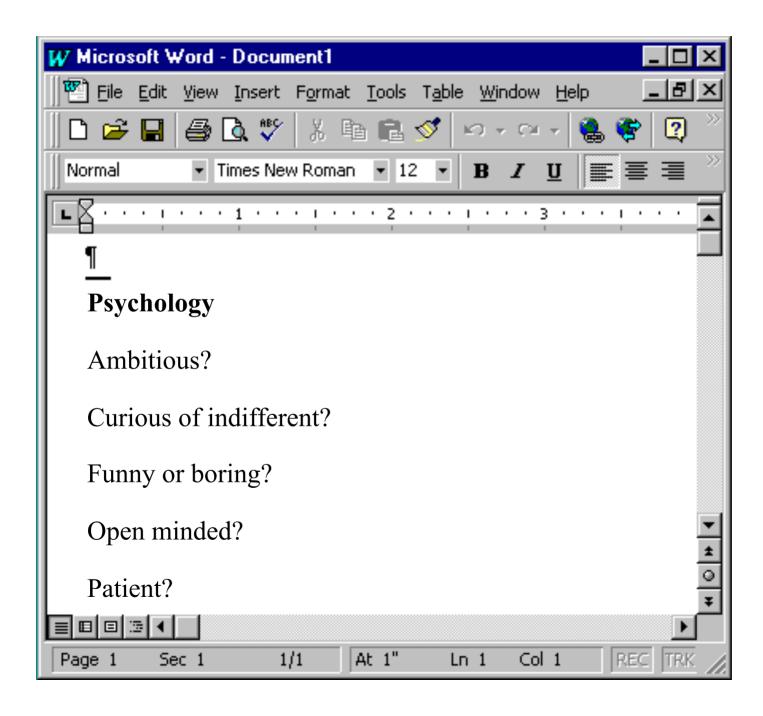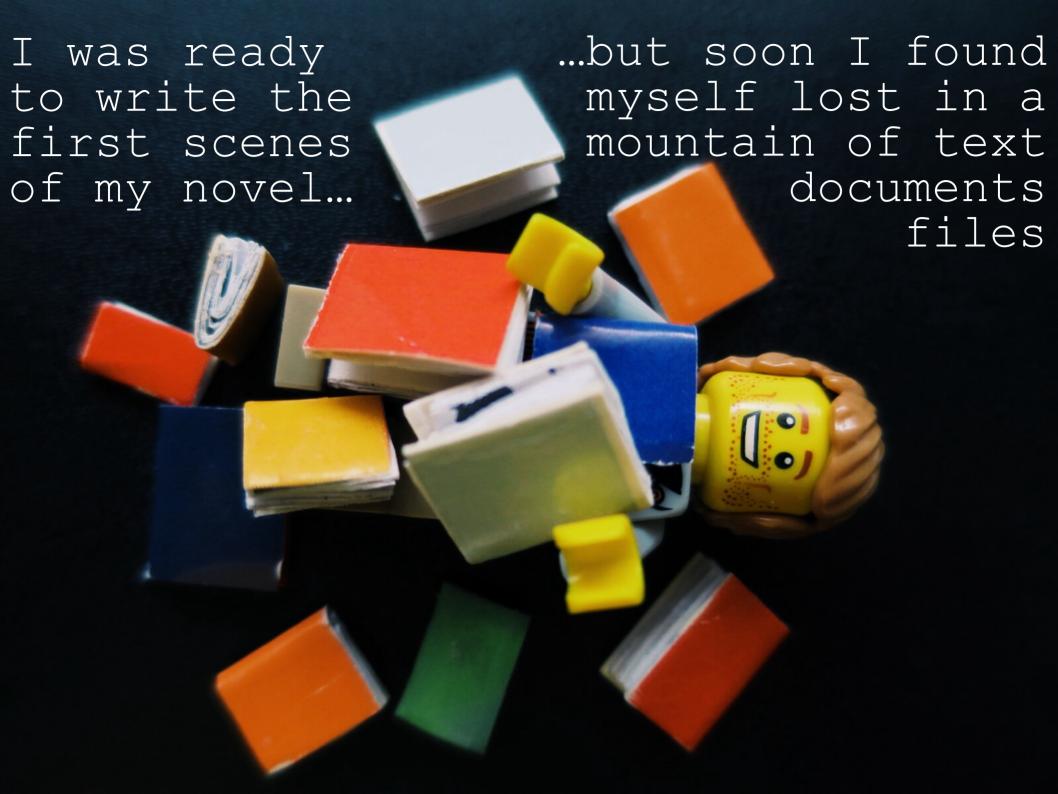
Psychology

Ambitious?

Curious of indifferent?

Funny or boring?

Open minded?

Patient?

They were telling me their stories and I just had to listen and write down what they said.

I was ready to write the first scenes of my novel...

...but soon I found myself lost in a mountain of text documents files

FOSDEM '17
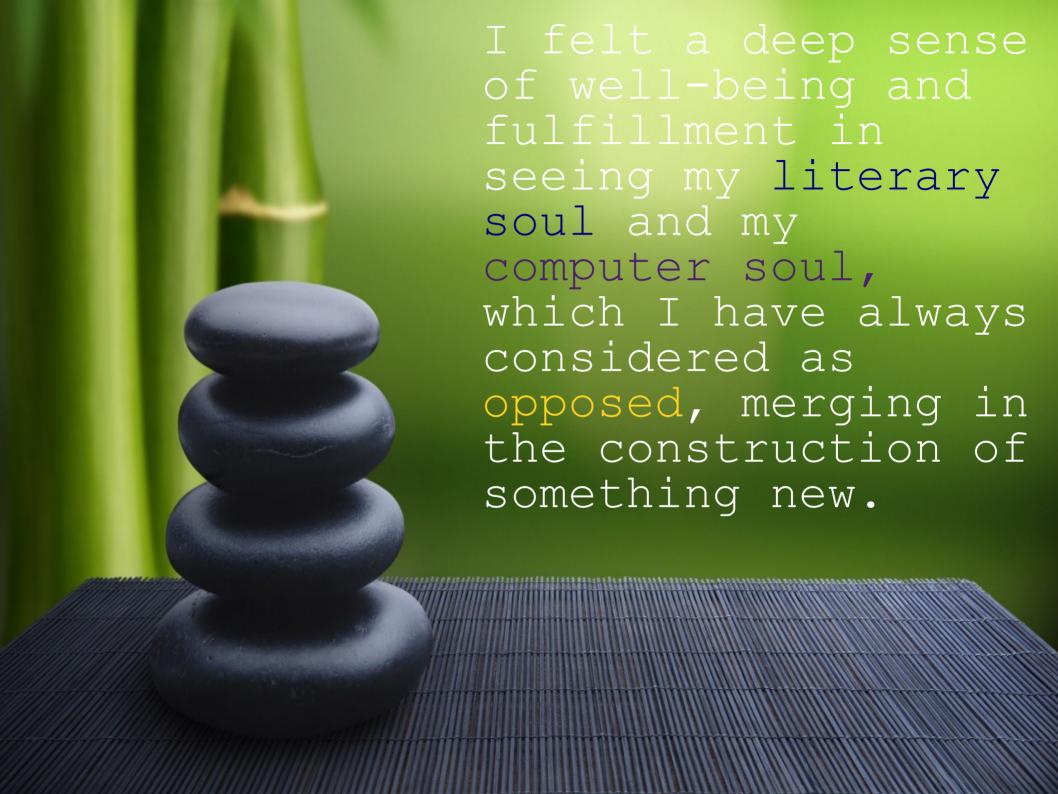
What I really needed was a novel development environment.

I looked for a software like this, but I couldn't find it.

I am a
developer and
I have the
super power
to create
things!

I felt a deep sense of well-being and fulfillment in seeing my literary soul and my computer soul, which I have always considered as opposed, merging in the construction of something new.
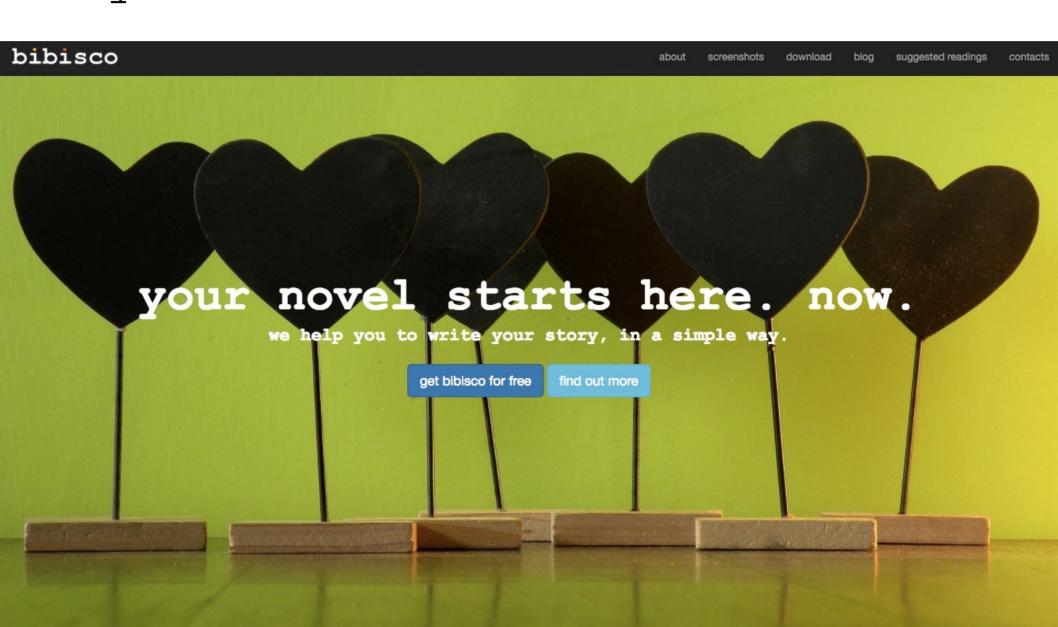
What have you done today for bibisco?

2 years later… bibisco 1.0

bibisco   about   screenshots   download   blog   suggested readings   contacts

your novel starts here. now.

we help you to write your story, in a simple way.

get bibisco for free   find out more

The magic of open source

bugs

new features

translations
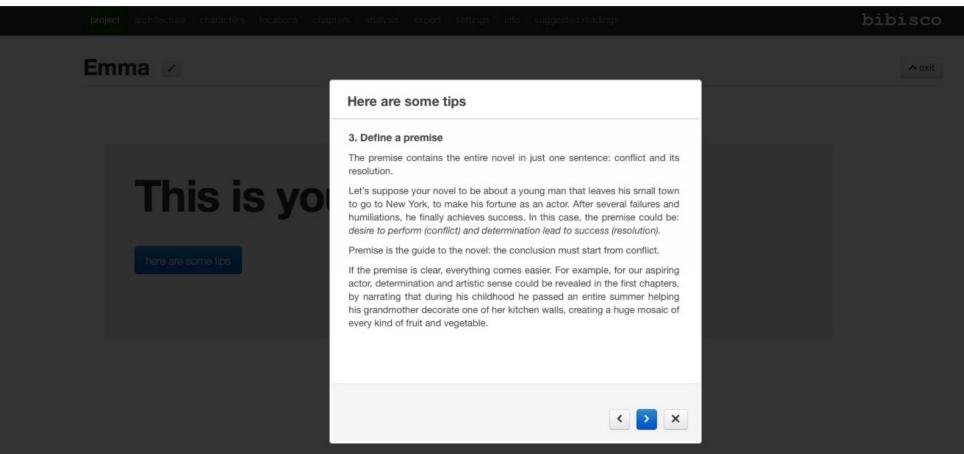
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beautiful
messages

project architecture characters locations chapters analysis export settings info suggested readings

bibisco

Emma ✎

∧ exit
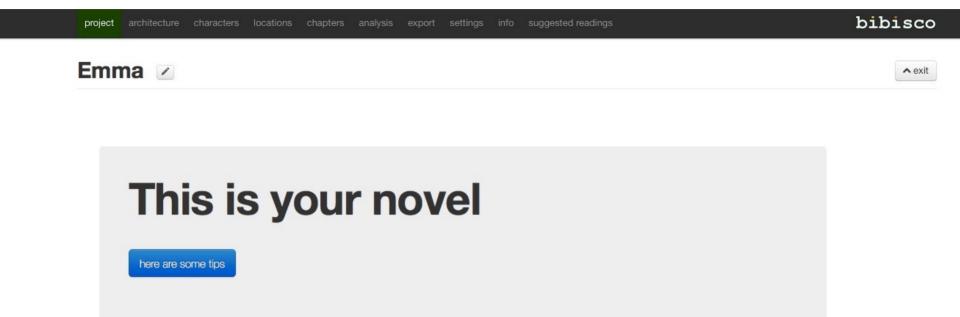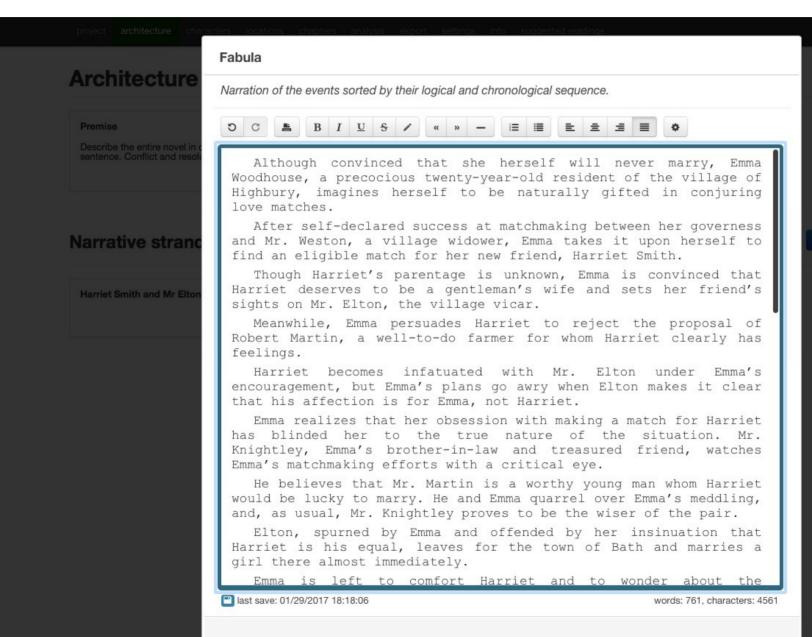
This is yo

here are some tips

Here are some tips

3. Define a premise

The premise contains the entire novel in just one sentence: conflict and its resolution.

Let's suppose your novel to be about a young man that leaves his small town to go to New York, to make his fortune as an actor. After several failures and humiliations, he finally achieves success. In this case, the premise could be: *desire to perform (conflict) and determination lead to success (resolution).*

Premise is the guide to the novel: the conclusion must start from conflict.

If the premise is clear, everything comes easier. For example, for our aspiring actor, determination and artistic sense could be revealed in the first chapters, by narrating that during his childhood he passed an entire summer helping his grandmother decorate one of her kitchen walls, creating a huge mosaic of every kind of fruit and vegetable.

‹ › ✕

bi

Architecture

Premise

Describe the entire novel in a
sentence. Conflict and resolu...

Narrative strand

Harriet Smith and Mr Elton

+ create narrative strand

Fabula

Narration of the events sorted by their logical and chronological sequence.

↺ ↻ | 🖶 | **B** *I* U̲ S̶ ✎ | « » — | ☰ ☷ | ☰ ☰ ☰ ☰ | ⚙

> Although convinced that she herself will never marry, Emma Woodhouse, a precocious twenty-year-old resident of the village of Highbury, imagines herself to be naturally gifted in conjuring love matches.
>
> After self-declared success at matchmaking between her governess and Mr. Weston, a village widower, Emma takes it upon herself to find an eligible match for her new friend, Harriet Smith.
>
> Though Harriet's parentage is unknown, Emma is convinced that Harriet deserves to be a gentleman's wife and sets her friend's sights on Mr. Elton, the village vicar.
>
> Meanwhile, Emma persuades Harriet to reject the proposal of Robert Martin, a well-to-do farmer for whom Harriet clearly has feelings.
>
> Harriet becomes infatuated with Mr. Elton under Emma's encouragement, but Emma's plans go awry when Elton makes it clear that his affection is for Emma, not Harriet.
>
> Emma realizes that her obsession with making a match for Harriet has blinded her to the true nature of the situation. Mr. Knightley, Emma's brother-in-law and treasured friend, watches Emma's matchmaking efforts with a critical eye.
>
> He believes that Mr. Martin is a worthy young man whom Harriet would be lucky to marry. He and Emma quarrel over Emma's meddling, and, as usual, Mr. Knightley proves to be the wiser of the pair.
>
> Elton, spurned by Emma and offended by her insinuation that Harriet is his equal, leaves for the town of Bath and marries a girl there almost immediately.
>
> Emma is left to comfort Harriet and to wonder about the

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OK … !!!   ✓ ✕

Locations

Stanway house

United Kingdom, Winchcom...

Images of Stanway house (United Kingdom, Winchcombe) ✕

Stanway house

+ Add an image **🗑 Delete current image**
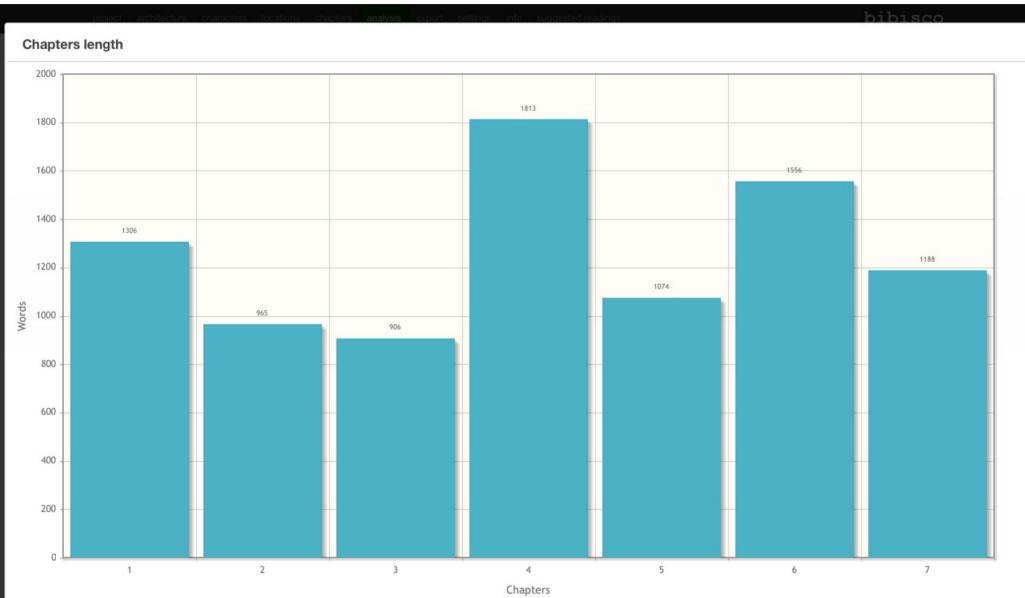
✕

project   architecture   characters   locations   chapters   **analysis**   export   settings   info   suggested readings   **bibisco**

Analysis

ⓘ important note

Chapters length   [info]

Check out chapters length.

Characters' distribution   [info]

Check out chapters where each character appears.

Characters' list of appearances   [info]

For each character, list in chronological order his/her appearances by location, scene, and chapter.

Distribution of location   [info]

Check out chapters where each location appears.

Narrative strand distribution   [info]

Check out chapters where each narrative strand appears.

Use of points of view   [info]

Check out chapters where each point of view is used.

Export project

export in PDF   export in word (RTF)   export as archive

FOSDEM '17

40000+ downloads

8 languages

one of the 7 cool little open source projects that stood out in 2016 in the yearbook of opensource.com

Let's get technical, technical!

bibisco 1.x: Java desktop application available for Linux, Mac, Windows written with Eclipse RCP framework; the UI is written in HTML5 and Javascript.

bibisco 2.0: fully HTML5 and Javascript application, written with Electron framework by Github.

website: bibisco.com
blog: blog.bibisco.com

mail: info@bibisco.com
mail: andrea@bibisco.com

facebook: bibisco.official.page
twitter: bibiscotweet

github: andreafeccomandi/bibisco

About me.

Andrea Feccomandi.
41 years old.
From Bologna,
northern Italy.
I'm a family man and
I love my beautiful
wife and my two kids.
I'm a passionate
software engineer and
I'm a CTO of a
software house.
I love books, music,
movies, tv series,
basketball, lego.

I have not yet
written my novel…

but if it's true
that a person is
happy when is
able to fully
develop its
potential

bibisco made me a
happier person.

That's all.

Thank you!