

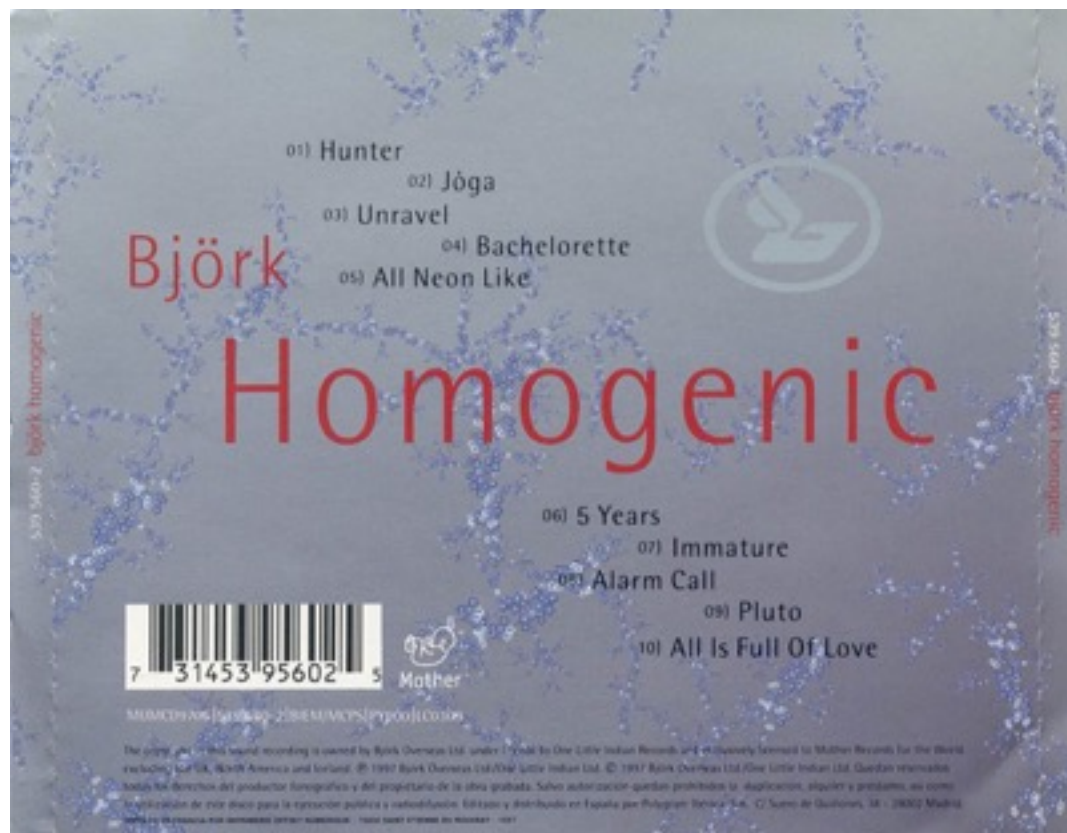
How to write a novel
using open source
software

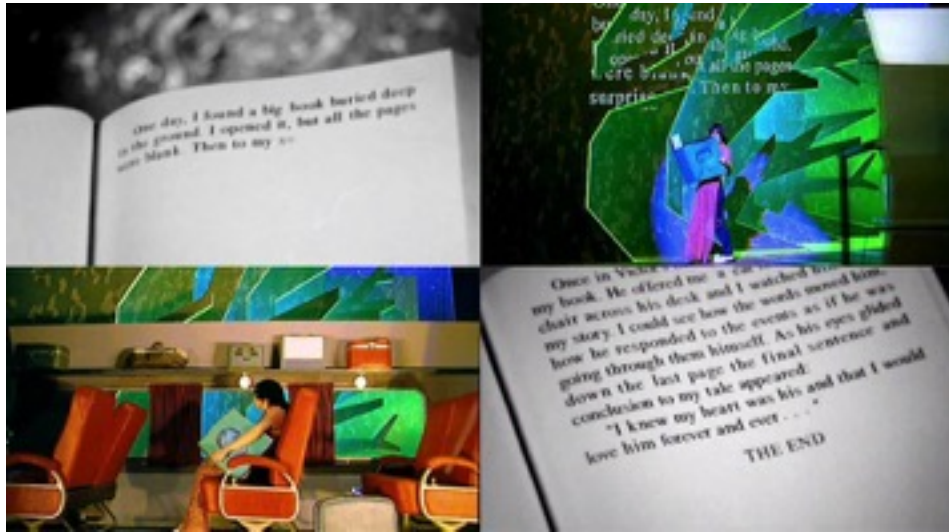
Introduction to bibisco

Andrea Feccomandi



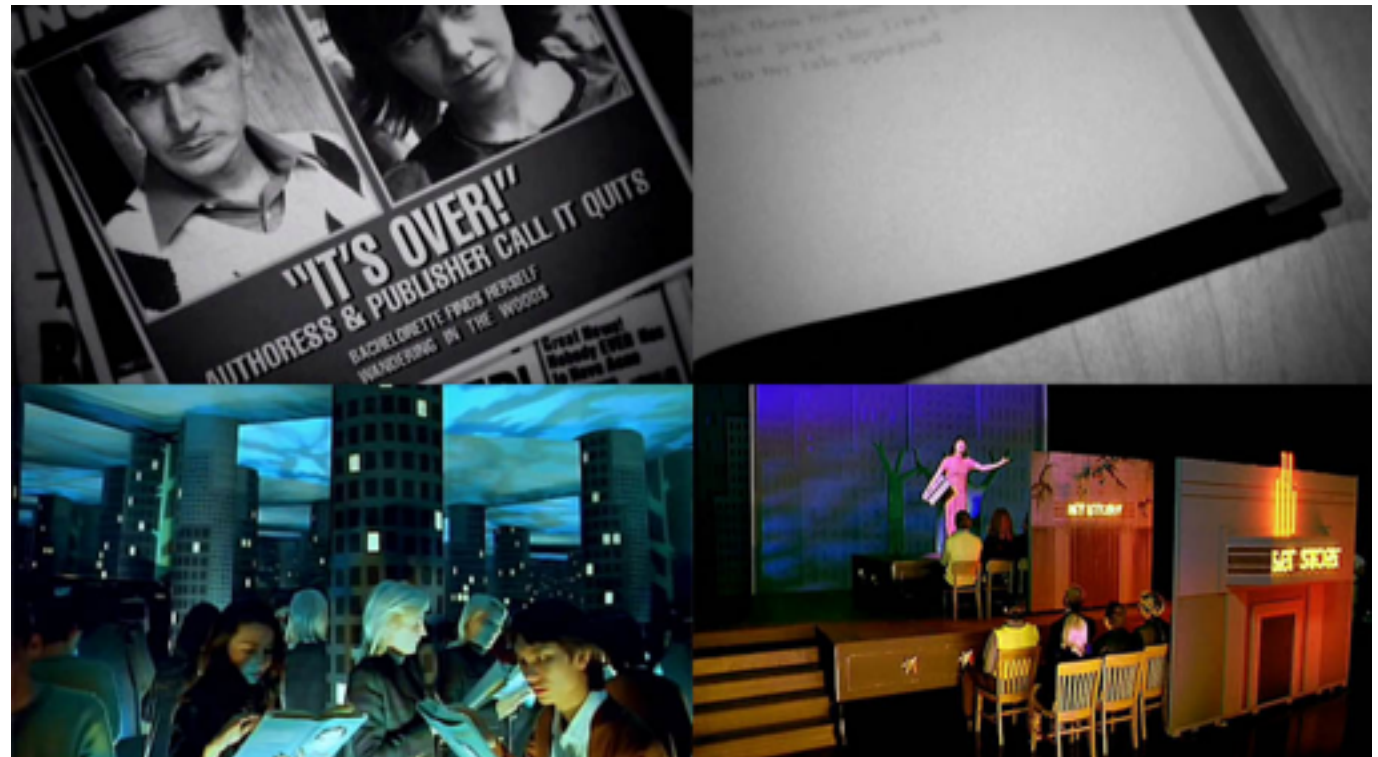
The story of
bibisco started
in 1997

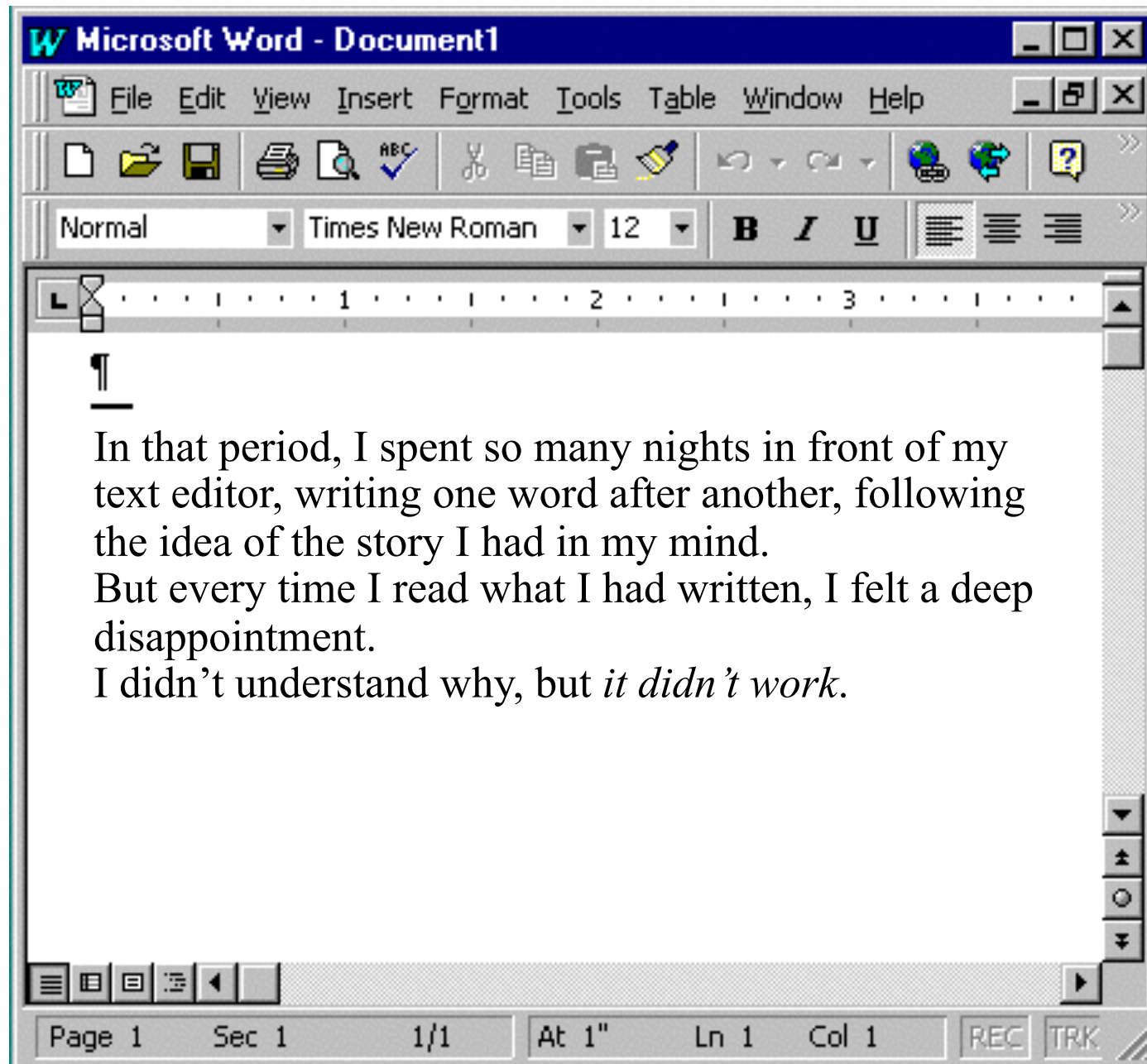


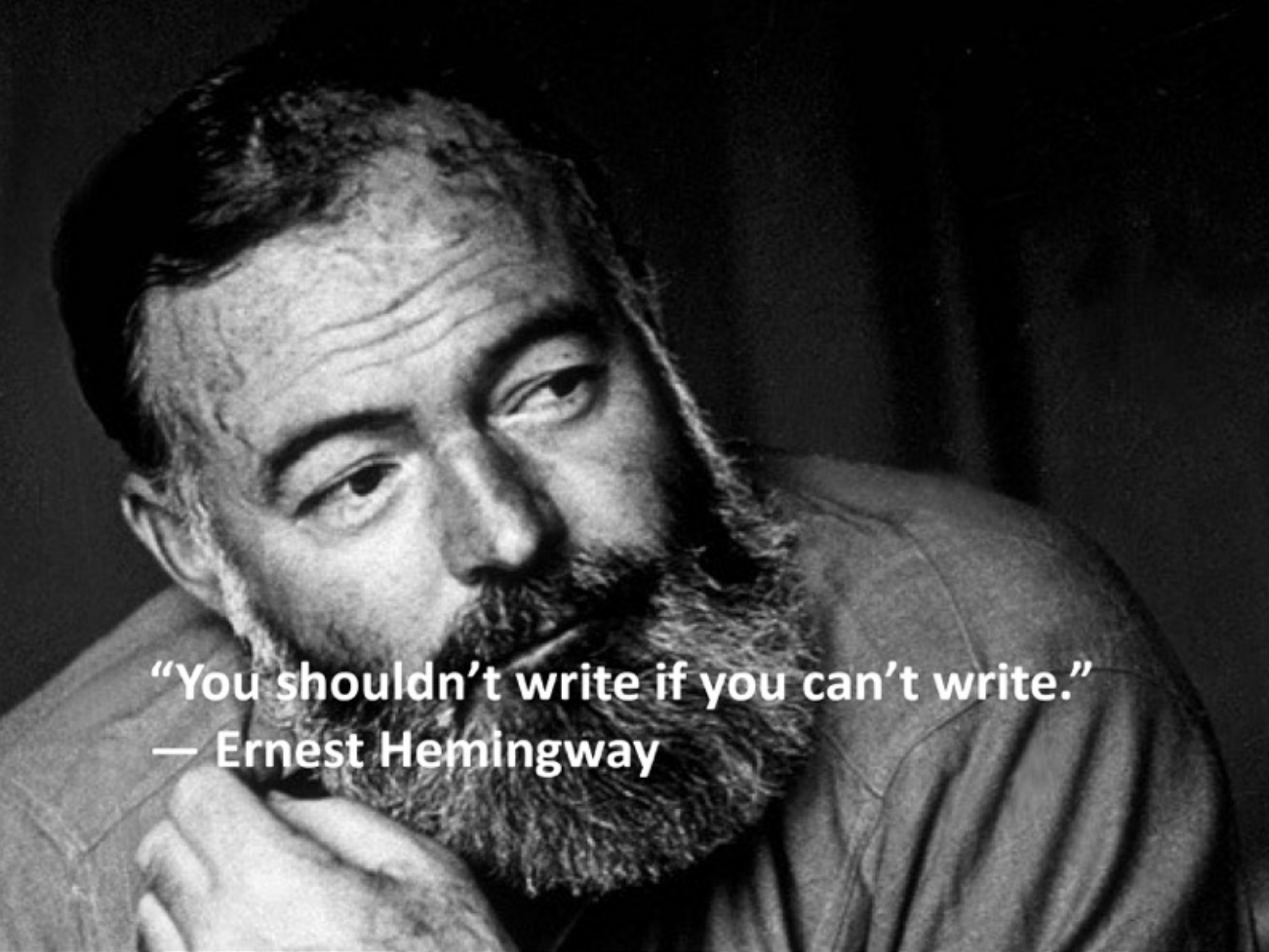


ever since I
was a child
I've loved
reading,
but...

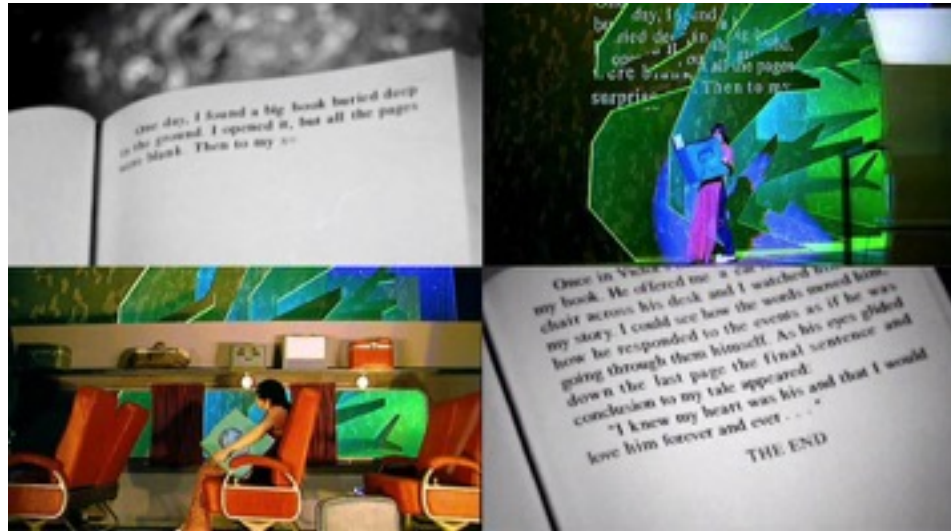
...the video
impressed
me so much
that an
urgency to
write came
over me





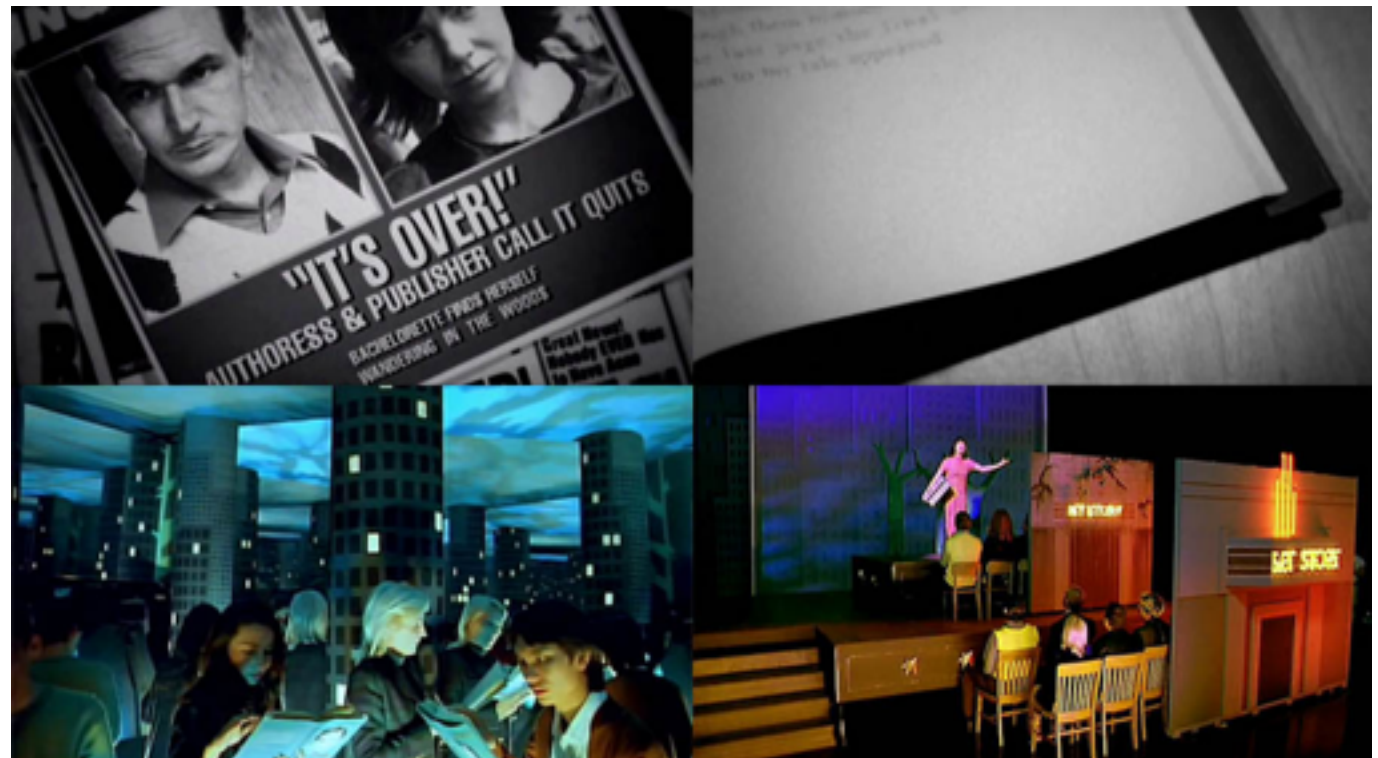


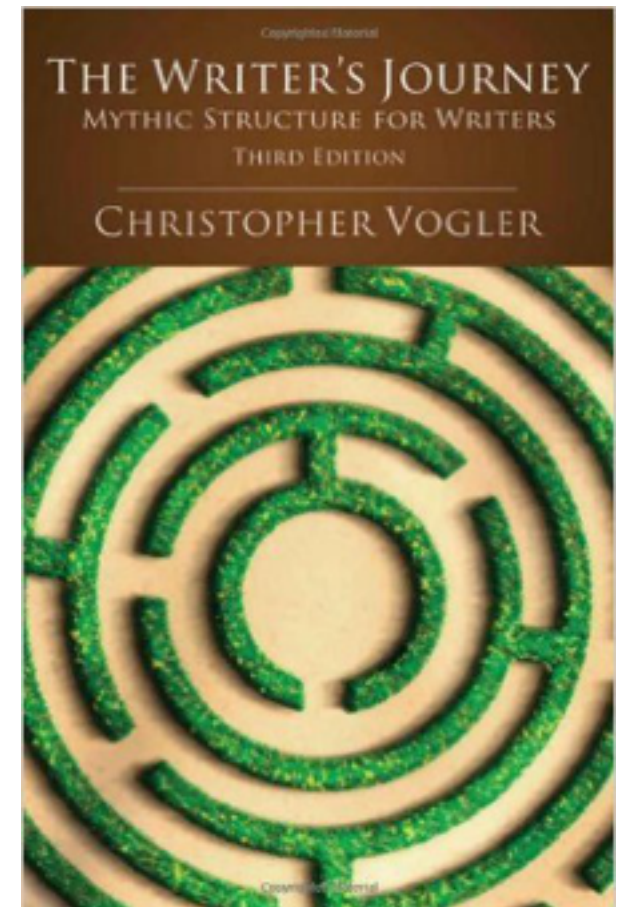
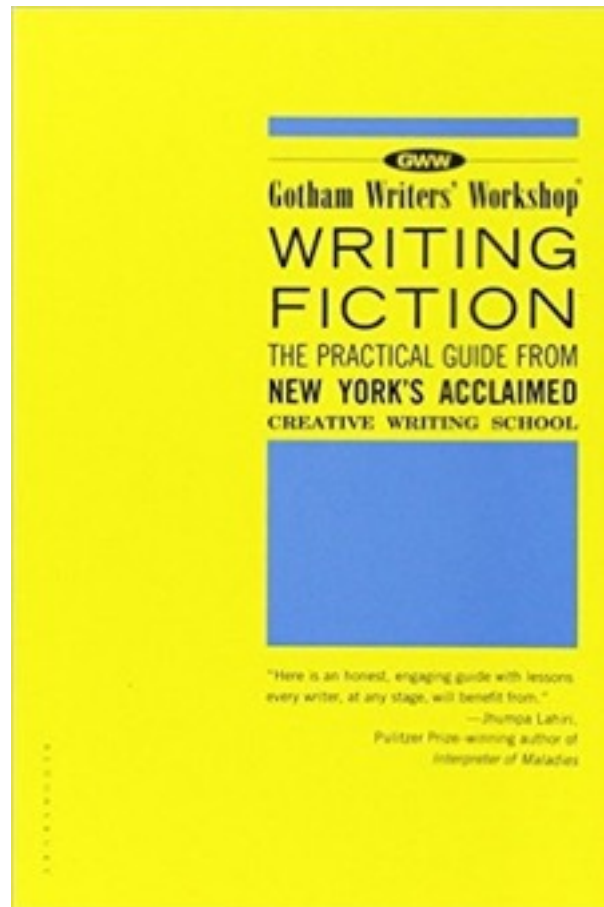
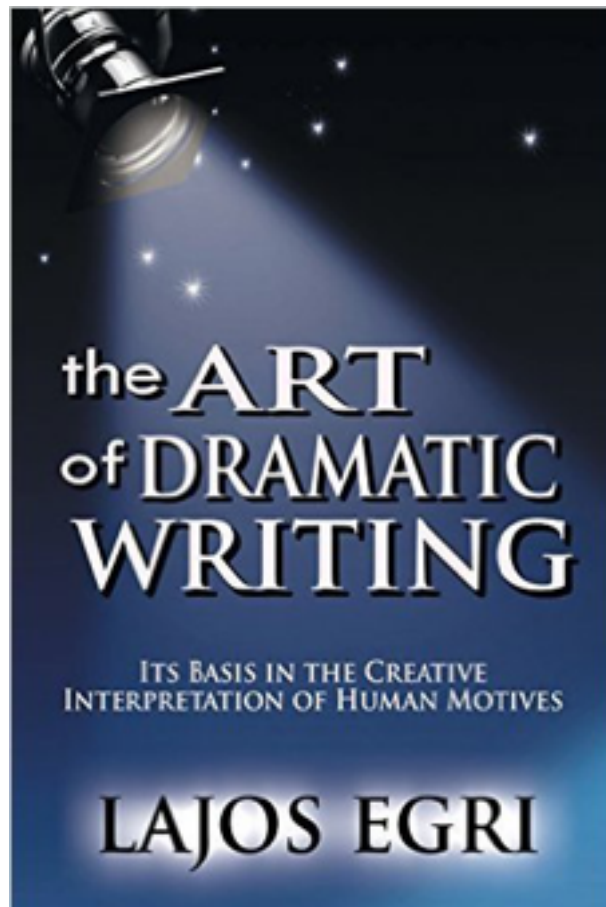
**“You shouldn’t write if you can’t write.”
— Ernest Hemingway**



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.



Lesson #2 (the most important)



The
conflict of
each
character
is the
driving
force of
every
novel.

But.. what is a conflict?

reaction to
an external
situation!

desire to be
realized!

inner need!





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.

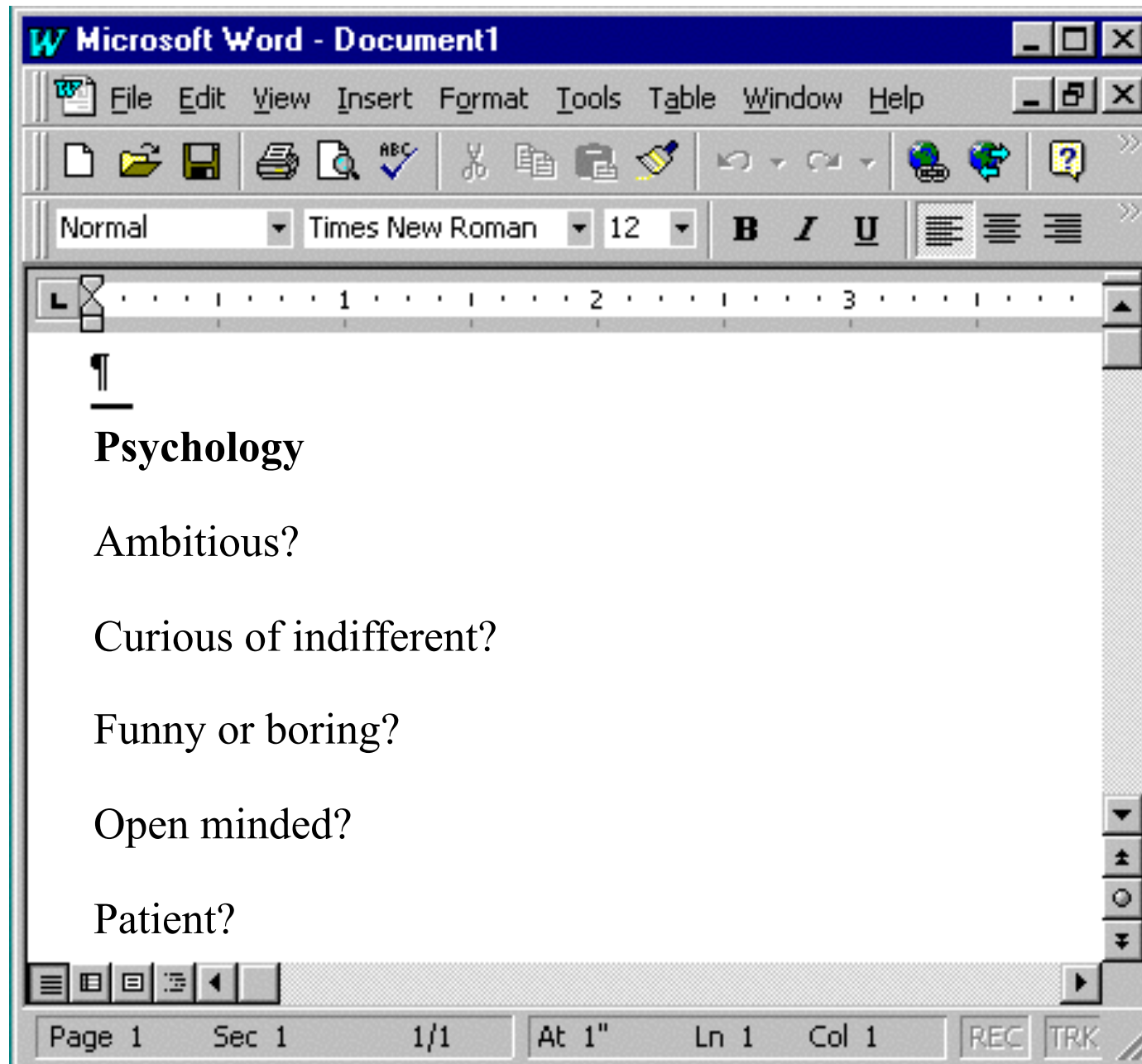
Characters
are
believable
when you can
understand
the
complexity
of their
human
nature.





– How can we create believable characters, Elsa?

– We have to know everything about them, Anna.

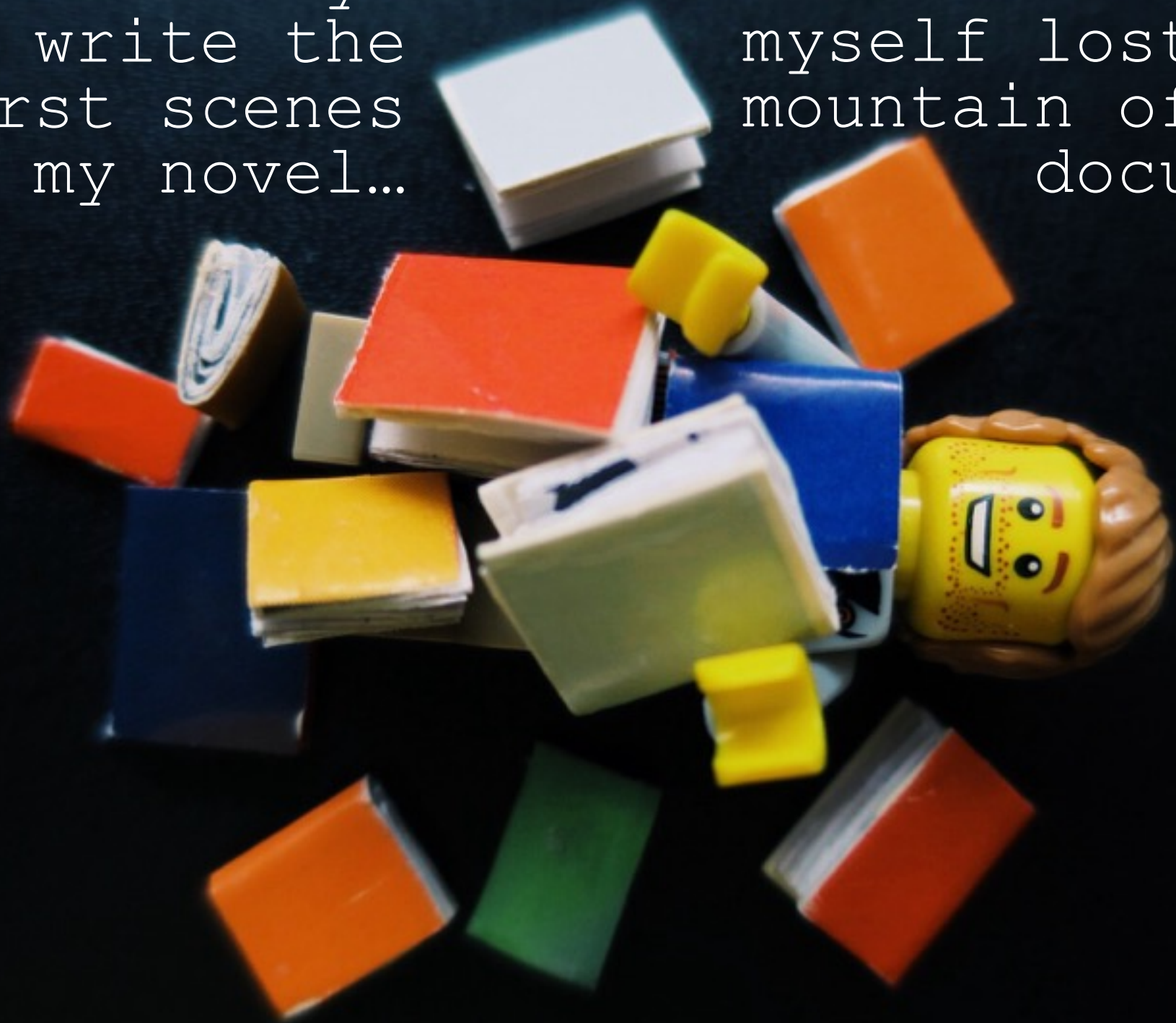


They were telling me
their stories and I
just had to listen and
write down what they
said.



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

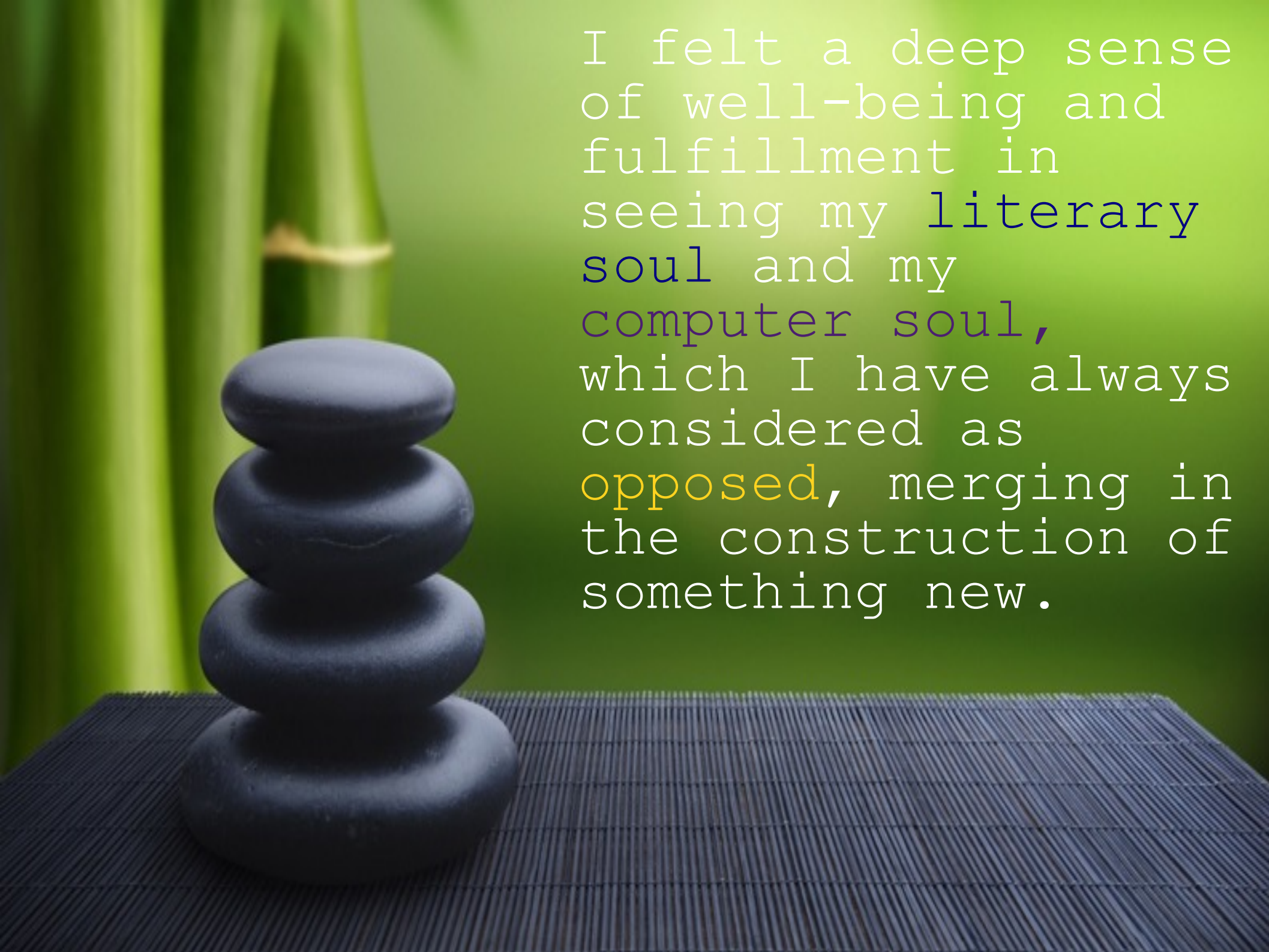
What I
really
needed was a
novel
development
environment.

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?

FOSDEM '17



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

posts and
articles

beautiful
messages

Emma 

 exit

This is your novel

here are some tips

Emma /

⬆ exit

This is your

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.

Architecture of the novel

Premise

OK

Describe the entire novel in one sentence. Conflict and resolution.

Fabula

III

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

Setting

III

Description of the place, time, and social context where the story is developed.

Narrative strands

narrative strands, each one connected to the development of one specific conflict

[+ create narrative strand](#)

Harriet Smith and Mr Elton

III

Frank Churchill

III

Jane Fairfax

III

Fabula

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



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

last save: 01/29/2017 18:18:06

words: 761, characters: 4561

OK

✓ X

Main characters

 each main character has a conflict, driving force of the plot[+ create main character](#)

Emma Woodhouse



George Knightley



Secondary characters

 they don't have conflicts, but are useful for story development[+ create a character](#)

Mr. Frank Churchill



Harriet Smith



Jane Fairfax



Philip Elton



Augusta Elton



Mrs Anne Weston



Mr Weston



Miss Bates



Mr Henry Woodhouse



Isabella Knightley



John Knightley



Emma Woodhouse [^ return to the list of characters](#)

1. Who is he/she?

Personal data

OK

First name, surname, nickname, gender, age, birthplace, residence, education, financial situation.

2. How does he/she look?

Physical features

OK

Eyes, hair, mouth, nose, ears, hands, build, height, weight, race.

Behaviours, attitudes

-

How the character looks, talks, laughs, cries, walks, drinks, eats.

Images

Character images collection.

3. What does he/she think?

Psychology

!!

Each and every aspect of the character's psychology.

Ideas and passions

OK

Religious ideas, political views, passions, hobbies, obsessions, vices.

4. Where does he/she come from?

Sociology

-

Family, loves, friendship.

Life before the story's beginning

!!

Childhood, adolescence, school life, professional life, before the beginning of the story.

5. Where does he/she go?

Conflict

OK

What generates conflict? Internal needs or external circumstances? Which is the real issue at stake?

Evolution

!!

How the character evolves during the story.

Emma Wood

1. Who is he/she?

Personal data

First name, surname, nickname, age, birthplace, residence, etc. financial situation.

3. What does he/she

Psychology

Each and every aspect of the psychology.

5. Where does he/she

Conflict

What generates conflict? Internal or external circumstances? What is the real issue at stake?

Sociology

Question (1/10): how is his/her relationship with his/her partner?

Question (1/10): how is his/her relationship with his/her partner?

Question (2/10): how is his/her relationship with his/her father?

Question (3/10): how is his/her relationship with his/her mother?

Question (4/10): how is his/her relationship with his/her siblings?

Question (5/10): how is his/her relationship with his/her grandparents?

Question (6/10): how is his/her relationship with his/her cousins/uncles?

Question (7/10): how is his/her relationship with his/her teachers?

Question (8/10): how is his/her relationship with his/her schoolmates?

last save: 01/28/2017 10:39:49

words: 0, characters: 0

◀ Previous question

Next question ▶

OK

Cancel

More

interview

free text

✓

✗

Locations

Stanway house

United Kingdom, Winchcombe

Images of Stanway house (United Kingdom, Winchcombe)

✕



Stanway house

+ Add an image

🗑 Delete current image

✕

Chapters

[+ create chapter](#)

#1 1306 (6953) —

#2 0 (0) !!!

#3 0 (0) !!!

#4 0 (0) !!!

#5 0 (0) !!!

#6 0 (0) !!!

#7 0 (0) !!!

#1 

[^ back to the list of chapters](#)

Reason

15

What role does this chapter play? How does it contribute to the development of the novel?

Notes

Ideas, notes, cues....

Scenes

[+ create a scene](#)

#1

215 (1240) OK

Introduction

#2

1091 (5713) ...

Highbury

project architecture characters locations chapters analysis export settings help suggested readings

#1

Reason

What role does this chapter does it contribute to the development of the novel?

Scenes

#1 Introduction

Introduction

Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessings of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her.

She was the youngest of the two daughters of a most affectionate, indulgent father, and had, in consequence of her sister's marriage, been mistress of his house from a very early period.

Her mother had died too long ago for her to have more than an indistinct remembrance of her caresses, and her place had been supplied by an excellent woman as governess, who had fallen little short of a mother in affection.

Sixteen years had Miss Taylor been in Mr. Woodhouse's family, less as a governess than a friend, very fond of both daughters, but particularly of Emma. Between them it was more the intimacy of sisters.

Even before Miss Taylor had ceased to hold the nominal office of governess, the mildness of her temper had hardly allowed her to impose any restraint; and the shadow of authority being now long passed away, they had been living together as friend and friend very mutually attached, and Emma doing just what she liked; highly esteeming Miss Taylor's judgment, but directed chiefly by her own.

last save: 01/30/2017 00:00:57

15, characters: 1240

OK Cancel

Revision 2

Revision 1

Create a new revision

Delete current revision

Revision 2

Architecture, characters, locations, chapters

Architecture Characters Locations Chapters

Emma Woodhouse

Conflict

Emma struggles to shed her vanity and her fear of confronting her own feelings, both of which cause her to misunderstand those around her and to meddle harmfully in the lives of others.

Introduction



Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessings of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her.

She was the youngest of the two daughters of a most affectionate, indulgent father, and had, in consequence of her sister's marriage, been mistress of his house from a very early period.

Her mother had died too long ago for her to have more than an indistinct remembrance of her caresses, and her place had been supplied by an excellent woman as governess, who had fallen little short of a mother in affection.

Sixteen years had Miss Taylor been in Mr. Woodhouse's family, less as a governess than a friend, very fond of both daughters, but particularly of Emma. Between them it was more the intimacy of sisters.

Even before Miss Taylor had ceased to hold the nominal office of governess, the mildness of her temper had hardly allowed her to impose any restraint; and the shadow of authority being now long passed away, they had been living together as friend and friend very mutually attached, and Emma doing just what she liked; highly esteeming Miss Taylor's judgment, but directed chiefly by her own.

 last save: 01/28/2017 18:03:09


words: 215, characters: 1240

OK



Revision 1



#1 

Reason

What role does this chapter
does it contribute to the dev
the novel?

Scenes

#1

Introduction

Highbury 

Point of view

Characters

Which characters appear in this scene?

Emma Woodhouse

George Knightley

Mr. Frank Churchill

Harriet Smith

Jane Fairfax

Philip Elton

Augusta Elton

Mrs Anne Weston

Mr Weston

Miss Bates

Mr Henry Woodhouse

Isabella Knightley

John Knightley

Location

Time

Narrative strands

[back to the list of chapters](#)[+ create a scene](#)OK  

Revision 1



Analysis

i 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

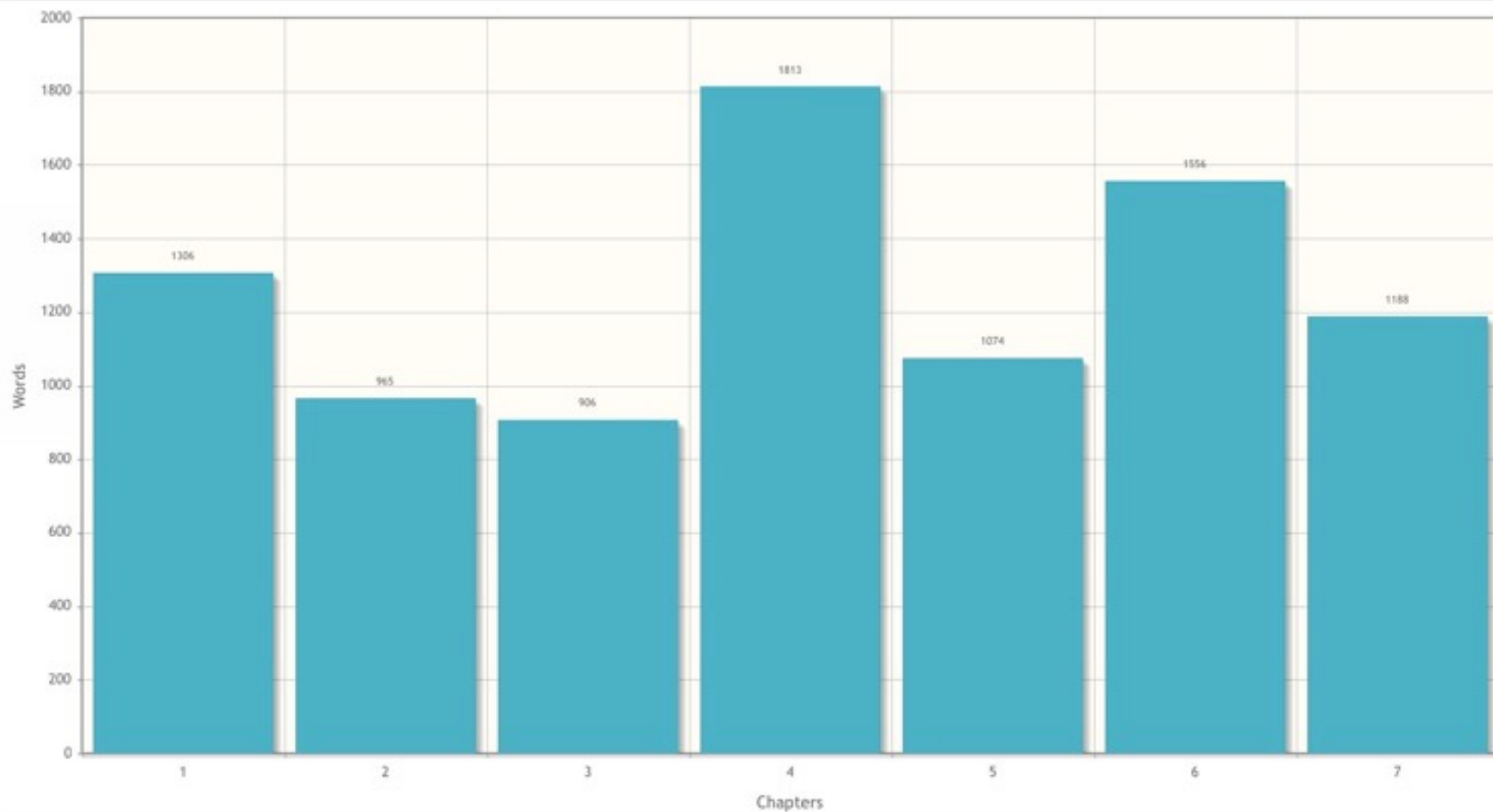
[info](#)

Check out chapters where each point of view is used.

Characters' distribution

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Emma Woodhouse	■			■		■	■
George Knightley	■				■	■	
Mr. Frank Churchill		■					
Harriet Smith			■	■		■	■
Jane Fairfax							
Philip Elton			■	■		■	
Augusta Elton							
Mrs Anne Welston				■	■		
Mr Weston	■	■		■		■	
Miss Bates			■				
Mr Henry Woodhouse	■						
Isabella Knightley							
John Knightley							

Chapters length



Export project

export in PDF

export in word (RTF)

export as archive

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!