

Bill Wolff
Creative Hypertext, Summer 2008
Hypertext Fiction/Poetry Assignment

For the main assignment this semester you will write/program/compose your own work of creative hypertext—either a short story, a long poem, or a series of interconnected short poems. The work must be original to this course. That is, you cannot adapt a piece(s) that you have written before. The hypertexts will be in the vein of *The Unknown* and *The Ballad of Sand and Harry Soot*—text-based, image-spare. The topic of your piece is, of course, up to you—and I encourage you to try to explore themes that you have written about in the past. If you do, it will prove to be an interesting exercise in how the medium of hypertext is not only challenging your writing but also how it is altering the way you present those themes.

Other than the below page requirements, the only content-based requirement is that your hypertext cannot be composed to be read only in a linear fashion. There must be links in the content itself. You may, if you would like, provide alternate ways for a reader to navigate through the text (as in both *Unknown* and *The Ballad of Sand and Harry Soot*). One suggestion: forget about images for now. Concentrate on the story, the linking structure, the relationship among pages, and what you are trying to say with your piece.

You can compose your hypertext using HTML code or a WYSIWYG, like Dreamweaver or Nvu (<http://nvudev.com/index.php>), a free, open source, robust application available on Mac, PC, and Linux.

The start/home page of your hypertext must be named “index.html” and your hypertext must be accessible via the following URL:

<http://users.rowan.edu/~yourusername/hypertext/index.html>

We will set up the proper folder structure in class.

Page and Word Requirements

Short Story: 15 – 20 total html pages
Long Poem: 10 – 12 total html pages
Interconnected Short Poems: 10 – 12 total html pages

There is no minimum or maximum word limit.

Due Dates

Rough draft: due online by 5:00pm, W 7/9
Final draft: due online by class-time, TH 7/24