

Rethinking literary education in the digital age

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Plan |

- Intro: literary education at school and beyond
- Theoretical background
 - Multimodality
 - Digitality
 - Creativity
- Case-study: *Education on Screen*



Literary synthesis

- Textbooks, films, video games, anthologies, fanfiction, reviews, memes, museums and other mediations of literary texts.

Any text may exist in series of possible forms and interpretations, none of which is the ultimate or ideal one.

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Multimodality

- Use of multiple modes (image, writing, speech, etc) in communication.



Theoretical background

Every human communication is multimodal

Verbal language is only one of the modes (Kress).

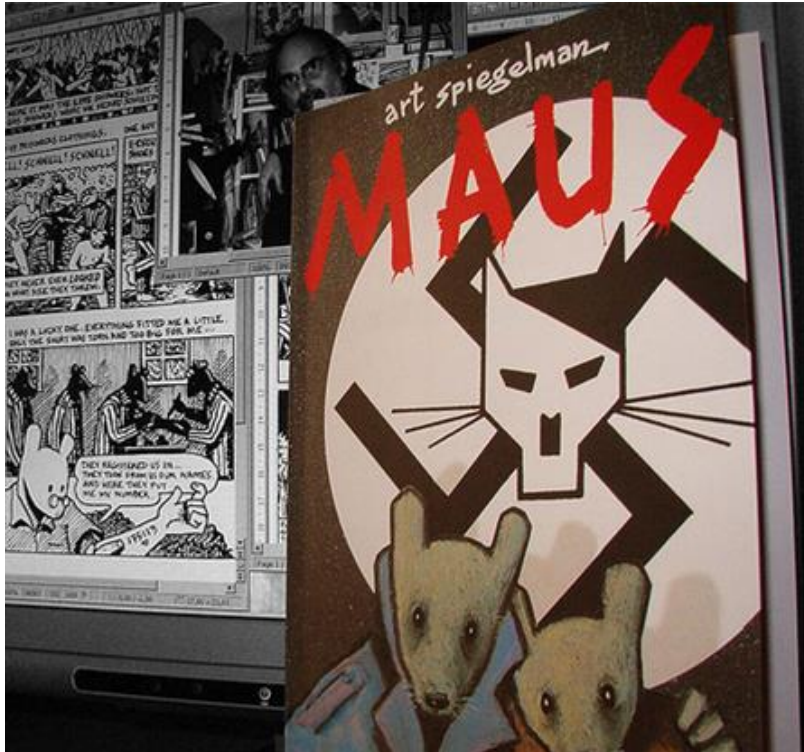
Linear and spatial languages are complementary

Reading is inseparable from construction of images. (Lotman)

Digital technology boosts multimodality

Additional features can facilitate reading, as well as interfere with it.

Multimodality in education



- Multimodality is included in the curricula of Finland, Australia, Scotland and other countries.
- Multimodal reading = process of design
- Attention is shaped as a result of student's interest.



Digitality

- Digital life of the old and new texts.



Theoretical background

Paper is not neutral

Every medium has its specific features, and paper-based medium also influences our experience.

New media is the old media

Digital forms of literature are deeply rooted in pre-digital ones (Manovich, Bolter, Grusin)

Digital brings new challenges

Digital media offer new opportunities as well as challenges.


Digitality in education

Schizmatic


Twitterature

Twitterature: Classic Literature For Contemporary Students


Homer's Iliad


 @achilles: Attacking Troy 4 that smokin ho, Helen. I totally PWNED Hector and base-raped those Trojan n00bs, lol. Duz my heel look infected?

Dante's Divine Comedy

 @dante: Inferno wuz wikkid awsum. Purgatorio wuz a'ight. Paradiso wuz total fap-fest. Imao @Judas getting nom-nomd by Satan. Sux 2bu dude!

Shakespeare's Hamlet

 @hamlet: Found out my stepfather offered my dad & doing my mom. Saw a ghost 4 reals. My gf's such a psycho tease. Thinking of clt-alt-del-ing myself.

 DAMN TREE, POOPING HARRY OF WORD TIRDS.

@MICHAELYU SCHIZMATIC.COM

- Reading paper-based books is not a superior way to perceive literature.
- Education has to acknowledge different forms and practices.
- Reading is by default creative, personal and often inaccessible to education.



Creativity

- Playing the text online and offline.



Theoretical background

Reading as playing

Creativity and unpredictability was theorized by Bakhtin, Derrida and Barthes.

Text = autonomous mechanism

Text transforms messages and generate new ones (Lotman).

Digital media is even more playful

New forms of literature: interactive books, chatbot fiction, video games.

Creativity in education



- Not mastering the reading skills, but acquiring multimodal literacies.
- Primacy of linear and paper-based narratives should be reconsidered.
- Reading based on the play, not on the instruction.



**From theory to
practice.**





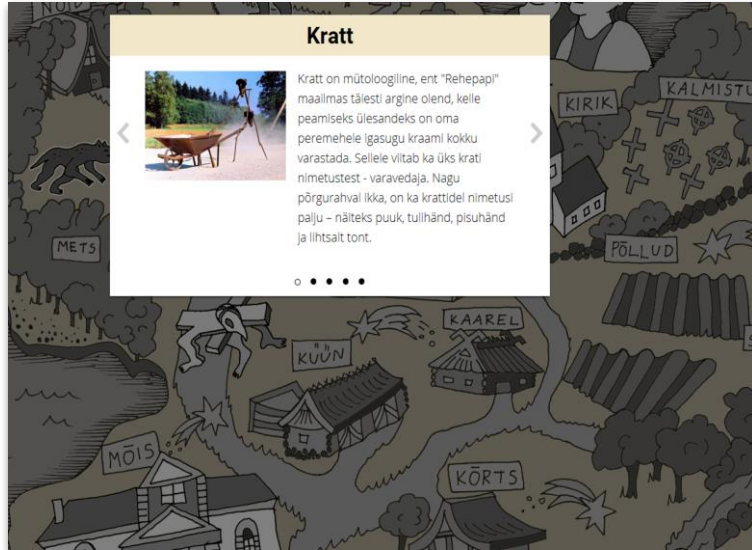
Literature on Screen

Online platform for teaching adaptations based on "November" novel and film.

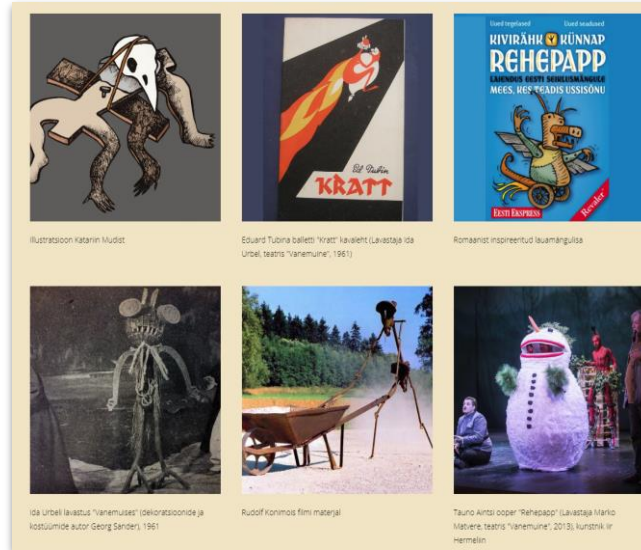
<http://kirjandusekraanil.ee/>



Example: explaining Estonian mythology



Map of the storyworld with explanatory comments



Gallery: kratt in different media



Game "Make your own kratt"



History on Screen

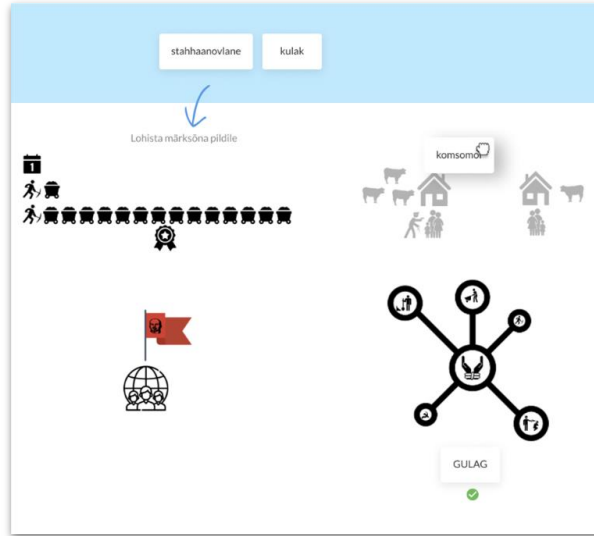
Online platform for understanding history and memory processes based on "Comrade Child" novel and film.



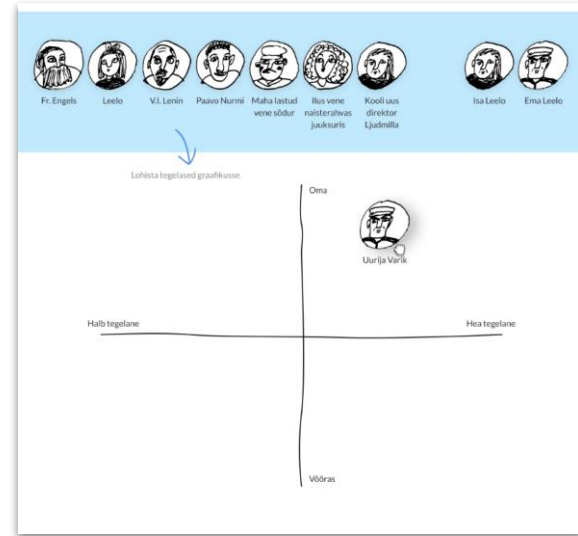
Example: explaining Soviet culture



Map of the storyworld with clickable objects



Task: Soviet "newspeak"



Task: changing the perspective

*...if a certain kind of text/culture
is supported in school but not
elsewhere, then its study will
probably be counter-productive.*

“

P. Hunt



Thanks!

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