The Challenge: To Create a Novel Story using Familiar Elements

Effective Stories Suggest Much More Than They Actually Say and are found in every kind and genre of text

For sale: Oak writing desk, one careful owner.

For sale: Baby shoes, never used.

For sale: sewing machine, old, cracked spindle, $50 ono.

These Six Words are attributed to Ernest Hemingway as the shortest, saddest story one could ever tell

The Novels-in-Three-Lines of Félix Fénéon

Early French modernist writer and cultural bricoleur

Félix Fénéon
@novelsin3lines

⚙   👤 Follow

There is no longer a God even for drunkards. Kersilie, of Saint-Germain, who had mistaken the window for the door, is dead.

↩ Reply   ⇄ Retweet   ★ Favorite   ••• More

RETWEETS
22

FAVORITES
4

Check out: @novelsin3lines for 1000's of examples

Félix Fénéon @novelsin3lines

With a cheese knife, Coste, from the suburbs of Marseilles, killed his sister who, also a grocer, was his competition.

Félix Fénéon @novelsin3lines

Misses Cabriet and Rivelle, of Plaine-Saint-Denis and Bagnolet, and M. Goudon of Saint-Denis, all drank: he cyanide, they laudanum.

Fénéon was an anarchist, a symbolist, linguistic mischief-maker, an observer of the telling events in everyday life

Fénéon reported *reusable* themes ...

Félix Fénéon @novelsin3lines

His sheaves were often set on fire. Pinard, of Coligny, Loiret, kept watch, armed. Pénon passed by; firebug or not, he caught the bullet.
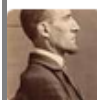
Félix Fénéon @novelsin3lines

In a tent near Aïn-Fakroun, a six-year-old Arab girl was incinerated by lightning, by the side of her mother, who was driven mad by it.
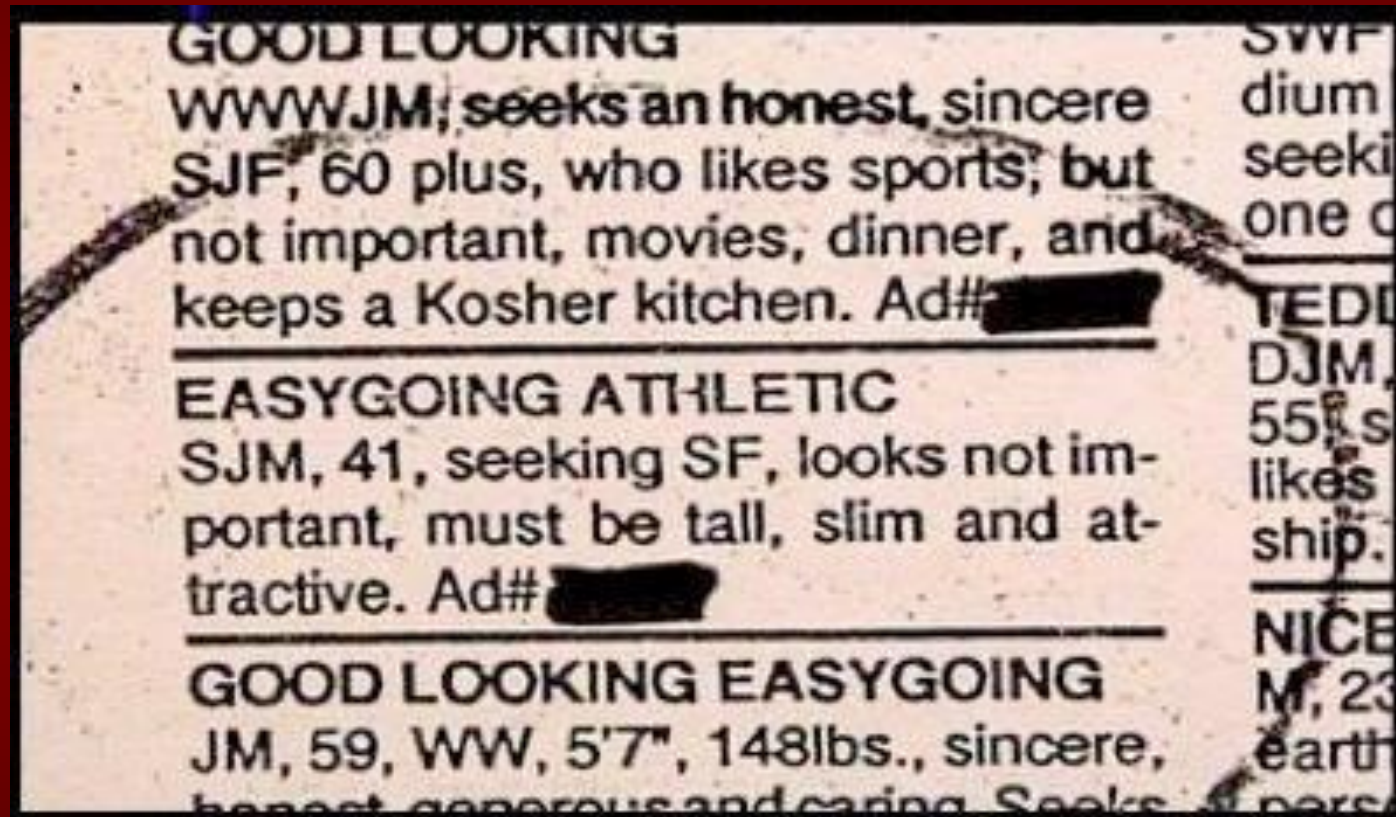
Death by burning, shooting, stabbing ...

Félix Fénéon @novelsin3lines

No one hanged the young Russian Lise Joukovsky; she hanged herself, and the Rambouillet magistrates have allowed her to be buried.

Jealousy, twisted love, tragic ends, rivalries, all understated so the reader tells the tale ...

Personals ads are revealing windows into a person
Like 6 word memoirs, they encourage concision and wit

Good tweets share many similarities with good personal ads

Personal Ads Can Allude to Other Genres, Domains

❖

> WANTED: Somebody to go back in time with me. This is not a joke. P.O. Box 322, Oakview, CA 93022. You'll get paid after we get back. Must bring your own weapons. Safety not guaranteed. I have only done this once before.

🐦 **Like tweets, ads can concisely evoke a story**

Unusual combinations can creatively obey and defy the conventions of the genre

I'm an athletic mature, independent. 33 yrs. old, with a youthful appearance of 23. I'm a single white male and a working professional in the research industry. I'm 5'10" tall, 175 lbs, with light brown hair and hazel eyes. I'm a non-drinker and non-smoker. I've never been married and have no dependants. Currently seeking a female companion who enjoys the outdoors and understands DNA replication. If interested in finding out more, call Box 1044.

This ad implies a specific category for the writer (a Techie? a Nerd? A mad scientist?)

SWM, evil on the outside, not-so-evil on the inside, seeks same, for long walks on beach, romantic movies, view to marriage. Contact Darth.

SWM, misunderstood, seeks spiritual connection with NS who loves cosplay, evil schemes and Star Wars. Be my Valentine. Contact Vader.

Tall, dark and handsome SWM, will reach high shelves for lucky lady who likes ballet and science fiction. Serious replies only, to D.V.

If you like Piña Coladas, and getting caught in the rain *rasp* If you're not into Yoda, if you have half a brain, *rasp* ...

So Use: Attribute Analysis

Darth Vader

Gender: male

Categories: Fictional Villain, Fictional Father

Specific Domain: Star Wars, the Dark Side

General Domain: science fiction

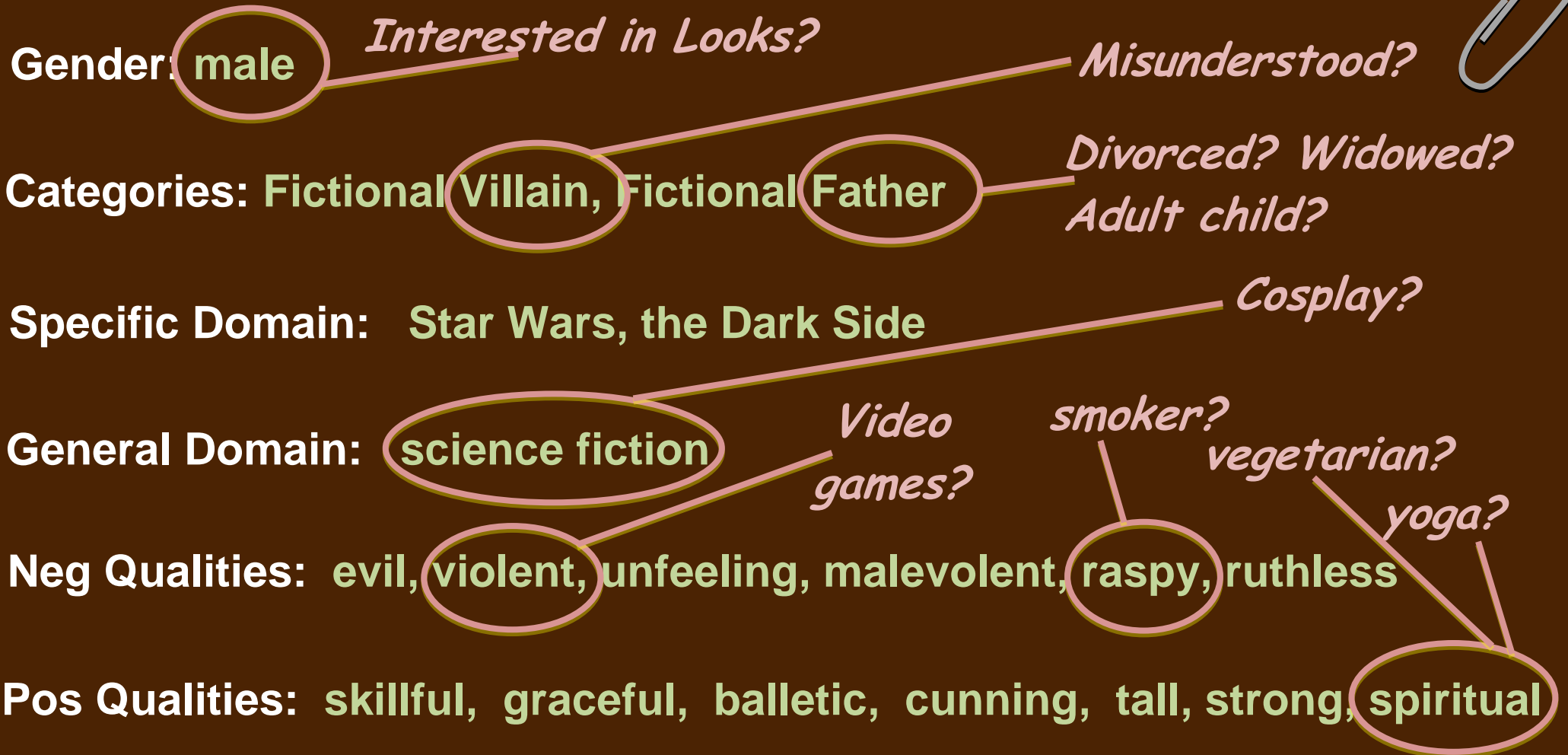**Neg Qualities:** evil, violent, unfeeling, malevolent, raspy, ruthless

Pos Qualities: skillful, graceful, balletic, cunning, tall, strong, spiritual

First, start with a straightforward inventory of character attributes and dimensions

Attribute Mapping

Darth Vader

Gender: male — *Interested in Looks?*

Misunderstood?

Categories: Fictional Villain, Fictional Father — *Divorced? Widowed? Adult child?*

Cosplay?

Specific Domain: Star Wars, the Dark Side

General Domain: science fiction

Video games?   *smoker?*   *vegetarian?*   *yoga?*

Neg Qualities: evil, violent, unfeeling, malevolent, raspy, ruthless

Pos Qualities: skillful, graceful, balletic, cunning, tall, strong, spiritual

We can map individual elements, on a general level, to assumptions about a personals-ad writer

Potential Soulmates

shared attributes, shared behaviors

Bane

Gender: male — *Men Seeking Men?*

Categories: Fictional Villain, Fictional Terrorist — *Villain Seeking Henchman?*

Specific Domain: DC Comics, Gotham

General Domain: comics

Own lair?

Non-smoker?

Neg Qualities: raspy, unintelligible, evil, malevolent, bitter, twisted, ruthless, drug-dependent

Pos Qualities: muscular well-built strong, action-oriented athletic cunning

Pair People Together based on Shared Attributes, Mutual Interests, Common Inferences

We Need a Hero [And a Villain]
A resource containing a wealth of stereotypical knowledge

Our creative machines need to be given
a rich knowledge of stereotypes

Darth Vader

Gender: male

Categories: Fictional Villain, Fictional Father

Specific Domain: Star Wars, the Dark Side

General Domain: science fiction

Neg Qualities: evil, violent, unfeeling, malevolent, raspy, ruthless

Pos Qualities: skillful, graceful, balletic, nimble, cunning, tall, strong, spiritual

Bane

Gender: male

Categories: Fictional Villain, Fictional Terrorist

Specific Domain: DC Comics, Gotham

General Domain: comics

Neg Qualities: raspy, unintelligible, evil, malevolent, bitter, twisted, ruthless, drug-dependent

Pos Qualities: muscular, well-built, strong, action-oriented, athletic, cunning

TLC: Tender Loving Care
IRL: In Real Life
STD: Sexually Transmitted Disease
GF: Girlfriend
BF: Boyfriend
ISO: In Search Of
TYVM: Thank You Very Much
SWM: Single White Male
SBM: Single Black Male
Yo: Years Old
BBW: Big Beautiful Woman
LTR: Long Term Relationship
BF: Black Female
STR8: Straight
ASL: Age/Sex/Location
SASE: Self Address Stamped Envelope
TV: Transvestite
ND: Non-drinker
NS: Non-smoker
FWB: Friend With Benefits
NSA: No Strings Attached
TG: Transgendered
CD: Cross dresser
W/E: Well endowed
S/M: Sado-masochism
MWC: Married white couple

B&D: Bondage and discipline
BHM: Big Handsome Man
WLTM: Would Like To Meet
GSOH: Good Sense Of Humour
GHM: Gay Hispanic Male
GBM: Gay Black Male
DTE: Down to Earth
FTM: Female To Male
VGL: Very Good Looking
GWM: Gay White Male
GAM: Gay Asian Male
DL: Down Low
HWP: Height Weight Proportional
T4M: Transvestite looking For Men
SSBBW: Super-Sized Big Beautiful Woman
FFA: Fat Female Admirer
FA: Fat Admirer
W4W: Woman for Woman
W4MW: Woman for Man and Woman
W/S: Water Sports
TS: Transsexual
PNP: Party and Play
MW4W: Man and Woman for Woman
M4T: Male for Transvestite
M4M: Man for Man
Domme: Female Dominant

Bi: Bisexual
MBiC: Married bisexual couple
BB: Bare backing
BB: Bodybuilder
0420: Cannabis
VAS: Vasectomy
Subby: Submissive partner in BDSM
SBiM: Single Bisexual Male
RTS: Real-Time Sex
SSBHM: Super-Sized Big Handsome Male
MHC: Married Hispanic Couple
Het: Heterosexual
GWF: Gay White Female
GG: Genetic Girl
GF: Gay Female
D/s: Dominance and Submission
D/D: Drug and Disease
BiF: Bisexual Female
BMW: Big Mexican Woman
ASL: Age Stats Location
OFAC: Own Flat And Car
OHAC: Own House And Car
DWM: Divorced White Male
DDF: Drug And Disease Free
SWS: Sex Without Strings
DWF: Divorced White Female

There are other ways of using stereotype knowledge
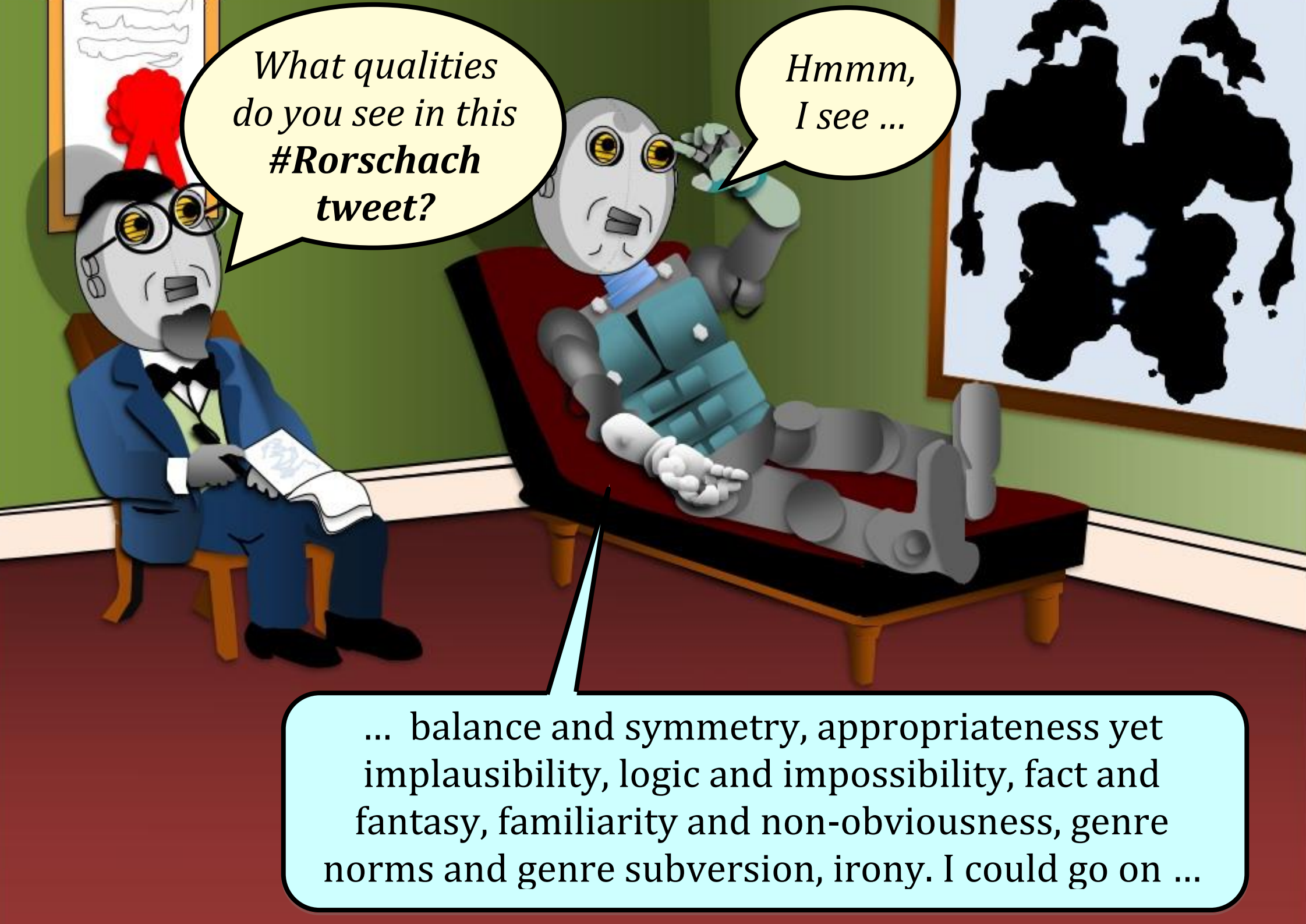## Headlines also tap into our prior knowledge of people

Darth Vader Sued by Bane for Trademark Violation

My Night of Passion With Dr. Evil: Marge Simpson Tells All

NASA finds Face of "Al Pacino" on Mars

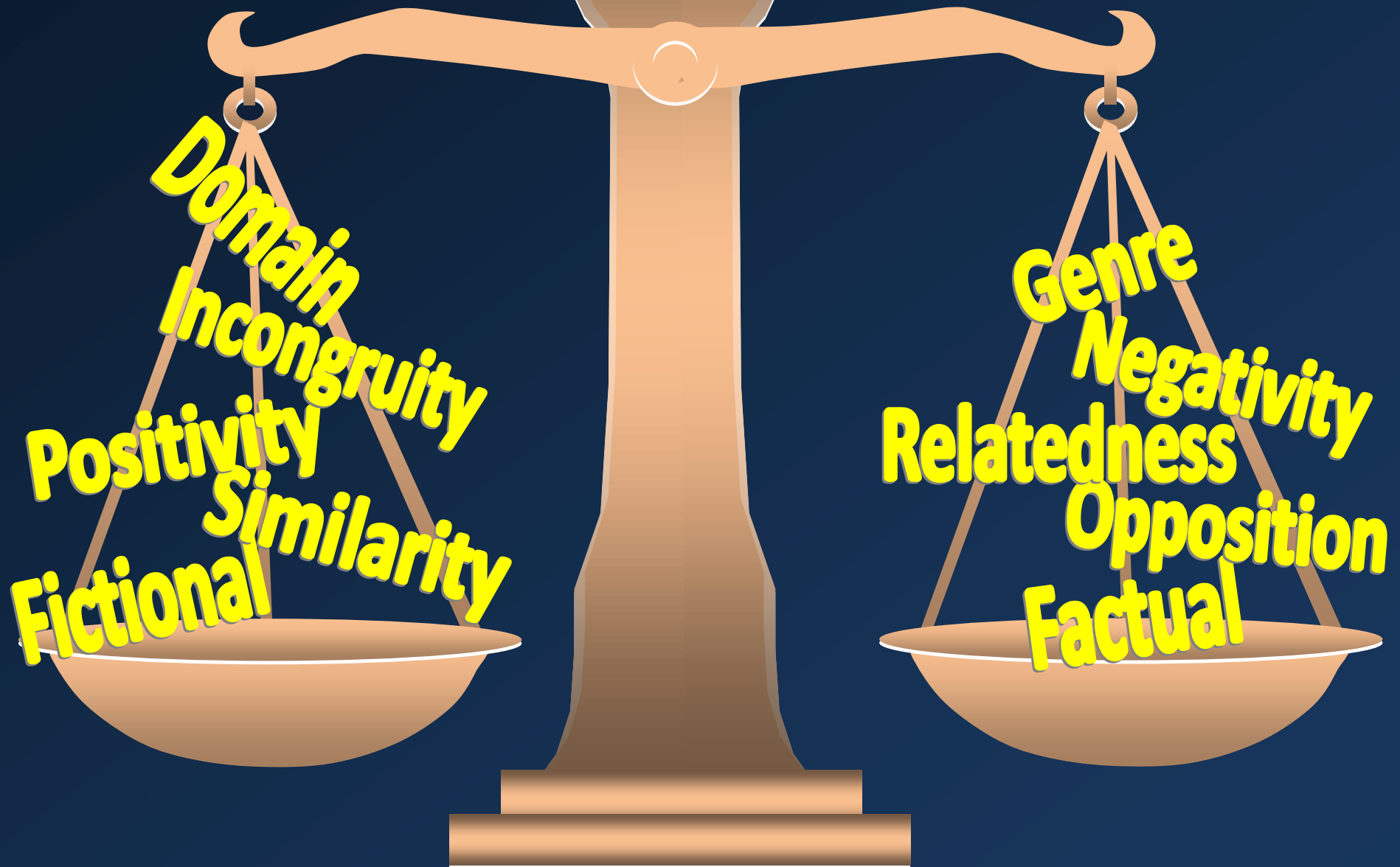**Russell Crowe to Star as Mother Teresa in New Movie**