Ben Harper
Cyberlore Collection
F351 McDowell
12/11/14

Contributor: Ben Harper
Title: @Jodyhighroller Twitter feed
Item Category: Style (performance)
Semester: Fall 2014
Instructor: John McDowell

RiFF RAFF @JODYHiGHROLLER · Dec 9
TONiGHT
PiTTSBURGH
ALTAR BAR
9 PM

i COULDA PLAYED FOR THE PiTTSBURGH PENGUiNS BUT THEY
FOUND CODEiNE STAiNS iN MY HOLOGRAM BENZ

934   1.7K   •••

RiFF RAFF @JODYHiGHROLLER · Dec 9
i DONT WANT A GiRLFRiEND i WANT A
BESTFRiEND WHO JUST HAPPENS TO BE
THE HOTTEST GiRL iN THE WORLD & SHE
iS ADDiCTED TO ME & OTHER HOT CHiCKS

3.9K   7.1K   •••

RiFF RAFF @JODYHiGHROLLER · Dec 9
i AiNT GOT NO TYPE

The following media may contain sensitive material.

Item Description: The chronological timeline of the celebrity "Riff Raff". Features several entries that span a variety of different messages.
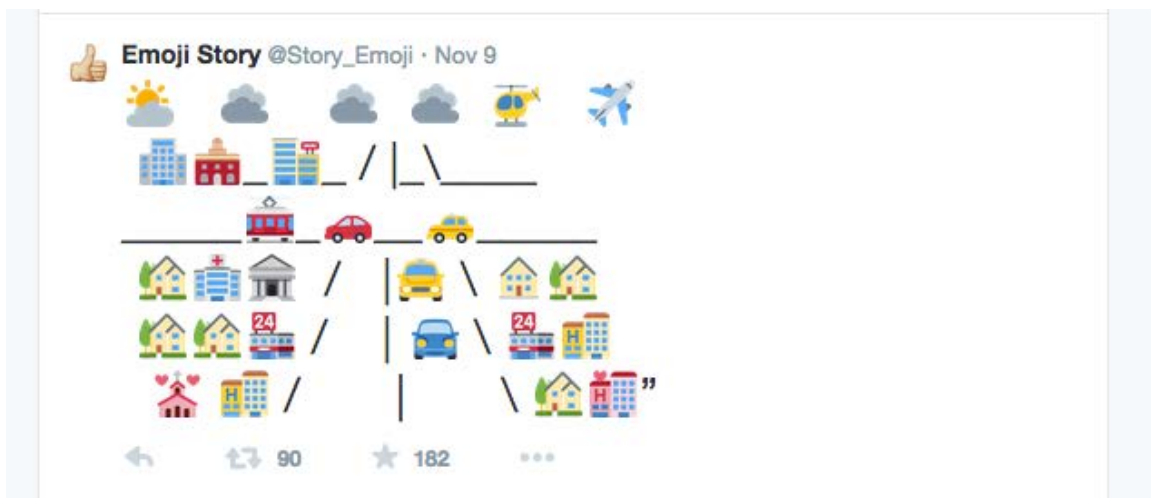
Points of Interest:
He uses a lowercase "i" in coordination with other capitalized letters. This brings an artistic value to the message he is trying to convey. Also, it is a unique and symbolic style; when you see this style, you know it is from Riff Raff.

Links: https://twitter.com/JODYHiGHROLLER

Discussion:

I think this is a very interesting piece within the broader context of Twitter posts.

While some people use Twitter to post information or share a message strictly for

its content, others are able to utilize Twitter for its ability to expose people to the

information as well as the artistic value. In this case, Riff Raff is able to both extend a

message to his followers, as well as convey the artistic image that can give more

meaning to the words and thoughts that he posts. It is also significant that he uses

this performance style in every one of his tweets, making this style much like a

signature that an audience can directly link to Riff Raff and no one else. In this case,

followers and readers can derive enjoyment from not only his outlandish remarks

and messages, but also the artistic way that he delivers the message. It is unclear

exactly why Riff Raff uses the lowercase "i" as opposed to another letter in the

alphabet. The lowercase i is prevalent in his username on Twitter, but is not

prevalent when he is cited in other resources or publications. In this case, it is

possible that the i does not signify anything significant, but is possibly just a

randomly chosen letter. Overall, Riff Raff is able to convey an informative and

artistic message through his use of Twitter and the style utilizing a lowercase "i"

among uppercase letters.

Contributor: Ben Harper
Title: Emojis
Item Category: Style (performance)
Semester: Fall 2014
Instructor: John McDowll

Item Description: Small icons that can be sent in a message that signify certain objects, emotions, or thoughts. You must download an application to be able to send emojis.

Points of Interest: There are many ways that emojis can be analyzed. In other words, there is no set meaning for each emoji. Rather, the user that chooses an emoji can decide what that means, and the receiver of the message can likewise analyze the emoji in a similar or different way. Only people with smart phones can use this.

Link: http://getemoji.com/

Discussion:

Emojis are rapidly diffusing into the mainstream of online messaging. In many ways, they are an evolution of emoticons that used keyboard symbols to signify an emotion. However, emojis provide a much broader range of options, and are more artistic. They consist of people, objects, or conveyed feelings that a person can send to another person or group of people. These can accompany a textual message or can even stand alone. Many people use emojis in text messaging, Twitter posts, and Instragram. It is important to note however that the only people that can use emojis are those with smartphones. Emojis are not available for computer users, and often an emoji sent from a smartphone will not be compatible when read on a computer. Context is very important when interpreting emojis. While an emoji may stand alone in one message, it must have a contextual basis to connect with. In other words, it can be a response to someone else's emoji, but not a stand alone message that has no context. In addition, a string of emojis may be able to tell a story or convey a message without words. Emojis can be interpreted in many ways. The sender of the message may interpret the emoji in one way, whereas the reader of the message might interpret it in a similar or very different way. Overall, emojis allow users to convey an emotion, thought, or object based on a small image rather than a textual message. It allows a message to serve as both informational as well as artistic message. It allows users to stylistically bolster the informational and artistic value of a message.

Contributor: Ben Harper
Item Title: Memes with a message
Item Category: Style
Semester: Fall 2014
Instructor: John McDowell

Item Description: An image with text that conveys a message, usually humorous.

Points of Interest: Memes allow people to repurpose an image that is usually created for another purpose, and add text to it so that it brings on a new meaning. Several memes have themes, and a recurring image but different accompanying text.

Links: http://www.memecenter.com/top/daily

Discussion:

Memes are a recent online phenomenon that have been popular in the last five years. A meme consists of an image, usually which was created for another purpose, and a text message. One popular way of delivery is a two part stanza, including one introduction message at the top of the meme, and a "punchline" type of message at the bottom of the meme. In the meme above, the artist was repurposed a Dos Equis commercial character to perform his message. Memes with the Dos Equis man are very popular online, and many follow the same format. They usually start with a message like "I don't always [insert contextual framework] but when I do…" and then a punchline at the bottom of the meme. Memes are often intended to be humorous, but sometimes may invoke a more serious message or tone. There are many different types of memes, and are not limited to this specific theme. While there are many memes that utilize the same image, the messages can be quite different. In addition, a meme maker could craft their own image and accompanying remarks. Overall, memes allow people to send messages or respond to a stimulus with a humorous message that includes an image and text. The image often includes a repurposed photo or drawing and text that somehow relates to that image or the context of the conversation. It is an important style of performance in cyber folklore, and is becoming increasingly prevalent on online venues such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other online forums that people can post messages on.