

If you can write, you can make games

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Who *is* this person?

AllThingsJacq.com

Club Floyd

IntroComp



What *is* interactive fiction?

- Began around 1975 with *Adventure*
- Became commercially popular through Infocom games like *Zork*
- Any and every genre, puzzly or not, serious or not, long or short
- Code alone what AAA games have multiple teams to accomplish!
- Thousands of free games now available through <http://ifdb.tads.org>
- Today's definition of IF? Main way to interact is through text.
- Increasingly accessible to new authors
- Choice-based and parser-based...

Cloud Dreaming

Jacqueline A. Lott

Restart

Bookmark

This story was created with
Twine and is powered by
TiddlyWiki

You are lying on the **grass**, your view framed with **trees**, a bit of **open sky** above you, the warmth of the **sun** on your skin.



Cloud Dreaming

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Cloud Dreaming

An interactive daydream by Jacqueline A. Lott

Release 1 / Serial number 141010 / Inform 7 build 6L02 (I6/v6.33 lib 6/12N)

The Park

You are lying on the grass, your view framed with trees, a bit of open sky above you, the warmth of the sun on your skin.

> look at the sky|

[At this point we played *Cloud Dreaming* in both formats to compare from a player perspective.]

The cake is a lie.

And so is this talk.

Sorta.

Twine

The screenshot shows the Twine 1.4.2 interface with a story map for 'cloud-dreaming'. The map consists of several passages connected by arrows, leading to a final 'Thank you' passage. The passages are:

- Start**: You are lying on the grass, your view framed with trees, a bit of open sky above you, the warmth of the sun on your skin.
- The Grass**: You turn your head to the side and lazily glance at the grass. Lush, vivid green. A world unto itself, were you an insect.
- Touch the Grass**: You run your hands over the grass, first brushing the tops of the blades with your palms, then pushing deeper. Closer to the ground, the grass is
- The Sky**: Azure blue. Mostly clear. There are a few white, puffy clouds here and there.
- The Sun**: Bright, rising, not yet overhead. Warm on your skin, pleasant, but not too warm.
- The Trees**: The open sky above you is framed on multiple sides by autumn foliage.
- Relaxing in the Grass**: You close your eyes and breathe deeply, feeling your lungs expand. You bend your knees, place your feet flat on
- Flying**: You flew a plane once. All by yourself. You left the earth, circled around the airport, and returned unscathed. They were even able to use the plane
- Dream of Flight**: You drift off to sleep in the warm sun, and dream of being free. Flying through the sky, the plane an extension of your mind and body, responding to your
- The Clouds**: Bright white in sharp relief on the otherwise clear blue, the clouds float slowly by. Each is unique. You know they're just a
- Okefenokee**: Yes, just like an alligator. You rather like them. Most people are scared of alligators — and possibly you
- Beyond Earth**: Elementary school. You remember how your fourth grade science teacher had applied to go aboard the Space Shuttle, and how you and others in
- Dream of Stars**: You drift off to sleep in the warm sun, and dream of being far away. First the moon, then Mars.
- Layla**: Yeah, more of a dog. It's lying down, that's all. That's what made it look like an alligator there for a second. But the snout is too short.
- Tenny**: No, not so much a turtle as a tortoise. A lot of people use the words interchangeably, but you know the difference.
- Dream of the Forest**: You drift off to sleep in the warm sun, and dream of being a child again, exploring the woods of Appalachia. Crawling over logs and up steep hills, one
- The Bug**: Yes, round and compact, like that old '78 Beetle your parents used to own. You used to love riding in that thing with the
- Dream of Napping**: You close your eyes and feel the sun on your face. Your mind wanders back to old road trips, riding shotgun with your mother, oldies playing
- Thank you**: Thank you for exploring these daydreams, inspired by my own past. Cloud Dreaming was

The screenshot shows the Twine 1.4.2 'Start' passage editor. The title is 'Start'. The tags are empty. The passage text is:

You are lying on the `[[grass|The Grass]]`, your view framed with `[[trees|The Trees]]`, a bit of `[[open sky|The Sky]]` above you, the warmth of the `[[sun|The Sun]]` on your skin.

Inform

Volume 5 – The Story

The park is a room. The printed name of the park is "The Park". The description of the room is "You are lying on the grass, your view framed with trees, a bit of open sky above you, the warmth of the sun on your skin."

Instead of smelling, say "It smells... damp. If [']damp['] can be a smell. Whatever the scent, it's lovely."

The grass is scenery in the park. "You turn your head to the side and lazily glance at the grass. Lush, vivid green. A world unto itself, were you an insect." Instead of touching the grass, say "You run your hands over the grass, first brushing the tops of the blades with your palms, then pushing deeper. Closer to the ground, the grass is thick and still slightly damp with last night's dew." Instead of smelling the grass, say "It smells... damp. If [']damp['] can be a smell. Whatever the scent, it's lovely." Instead of taking the grass, say "You pluck a few blades of grass, rub them gently between your fingers, and feel the dampness of the morning on them before casting them aside."

The trees are scenery in the park. Understand "autumn" or "foliage" as the trees. "The open sky above you is framed on multiple sides by autumn foliage." Instead of touching the trees, say "You can't reach them from here, but you haven't the inclination to get up and touch them just now. Perhaps later." Instead of taking the trees, say "Trees are better left to grow."

The sun is scenery in the park. "Bright, rising, not yet overhead. Warm on your skin, pleasant, not too warm." Instead of touching the sun, say "It is pleasantly warm on your skin." Instead of taking the sun, say "A foolish thought, quickly dismissed."

The sky is scenery in the park. Understand "open sky" or "view" as the sky. "Azure blue. Mostly clear. There are a few white, puffy clouds here and there." Instead of touching or taking the sky, say "You reach out, stretching your arm and examining your hand reaching upward, but know that you can never really touch the sky."

The clouds are scenery in the park. Understand "white" and "puffy" and "cloud" as the clouds. Instead of touching or taking the clouds, say "You reach out, stretching your arm and examining your hand reaching upward, but know that you can never really touch the sky."

Instead of examining the clouds:

say "Bright white in sharp relief on the otherwise clear blue, the clouds float slowly by. Each is unique.[paragraph break]You know they're just a random collection of water vapor, but their shapes spark your imagination...";

say "[if unexamined][line break]...that one, right there, looks like an alligator. Or possibly it's just a dog.";

say "[if the alligator is examined][line break]... that one looks like an airplane, or possibly the space shuttle."

There are many languages...

ADRIFT. Quest. Hugo. TADS.

Inkle. Choice Script. Undum.

And there are many resources...

Language-specific forums.

intfiction.org/forum

twinery.org

<http://ifmud.port4000.com>

Twine?

auntiepixelante.com/twine

example source,
snippets of code

Inform?

Built in documentation, recipe book,
lots of extensions and example code

But who will play my stuff?

Well, it depends.

Has it been beta tested?

Is it an independent release?

Shameless plug! IntroComp!

<http://www.allthingsjacq.com/introcomp>

IF Comp, Spring Thing, Xyzzy Awards

Cover Stories, Shufflecomp, Ectocomp

Speed IFs

Questions?

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