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Nabokov s Favorite Word Is Mauve: What the Numbers Reveal about the Classics, Bestsellers, and Our Own Writing (Paperback)

By Ben Blatt

SIMON SCHUSTER, 2018. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. Data meets literature in this enlightening (The Wall Street Journal), brilliant (The Boston Globe), Nate Silver-esque (O, The Oprah Magazine) look at what the numbers have to say about our favorite authors and their masterpieces. There s a famous piece of writing advice--offered by Ernest Hemingway, Stephen King, and myriad writers in between--not to use -ly adverbs like quickly or angrily. It sounds like solid advice, but can we actually test it? If we were to count all the -ly adverbs these authors used in their careers, do they follow their own advice? What s more, do great books in general--the classics and the bestsellers--share this trait? In the age of big data we can answer questions like these in the blink of an eye. In Nabokov s Favorite Word Is Mauve, a literary detective story: fast-paced, thought-provoking, and intriguing (Brian Christian, coauthor of Algorithms to Live By), statistician and journalist Ben Blatt explores the wealth of fun findings that can be discovered by using text and data analysis. He assembles a database of thousands of books and hundreds of millions of words, and then he asks...



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