

2002: An Odd Space Story

My husband's name is John. He's an astronaut. Last year he was engaged in an experiment in deep space. He was to pilot a spacecraft to .99 the speed of light. When he passed the observation station he was supposed to start decelerating. Instead, as he passed the station he said, "I'm going to take it on to 1.0 and see what happens." As he reached that speed, his ship was enveloped in a brilliant flash of light. Then he and his spacecraft were gone. Now, whenever I see a flash of light, I say, "John, is that you?"

This is a story set in the mu typography. It illustrates some of the supplemental visual cues that can be added by a musetter when preparing mutext for print - or when preparing the default specifications for a mudoc with interactive movable type. When preparing mutext for print, the publisher must make all of the typesetting, formatting, and other design decisions. However, when mudocs are to be displayed, the reader can, if he or she wishes, make most of the design decisions, such as the typeface and type size to be used, typography (i.e. linear typography or mu typography - and length of lines or size of muglyphs to be displayed), page layout, colors and/or shades of gray to be used, whether text is to be presented in static displays or as movies, whether the text is to be presented as *simultext* (that is, visual text accompanied by speech sounds), and whether visual cues are to be displayed or not.

If you read this story at four fixations per second (the average fixation rate for adult readers of English text) and made no regressions, your rate was 585 words per minute. Higher rates could be achieved with larger muglyphs.

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