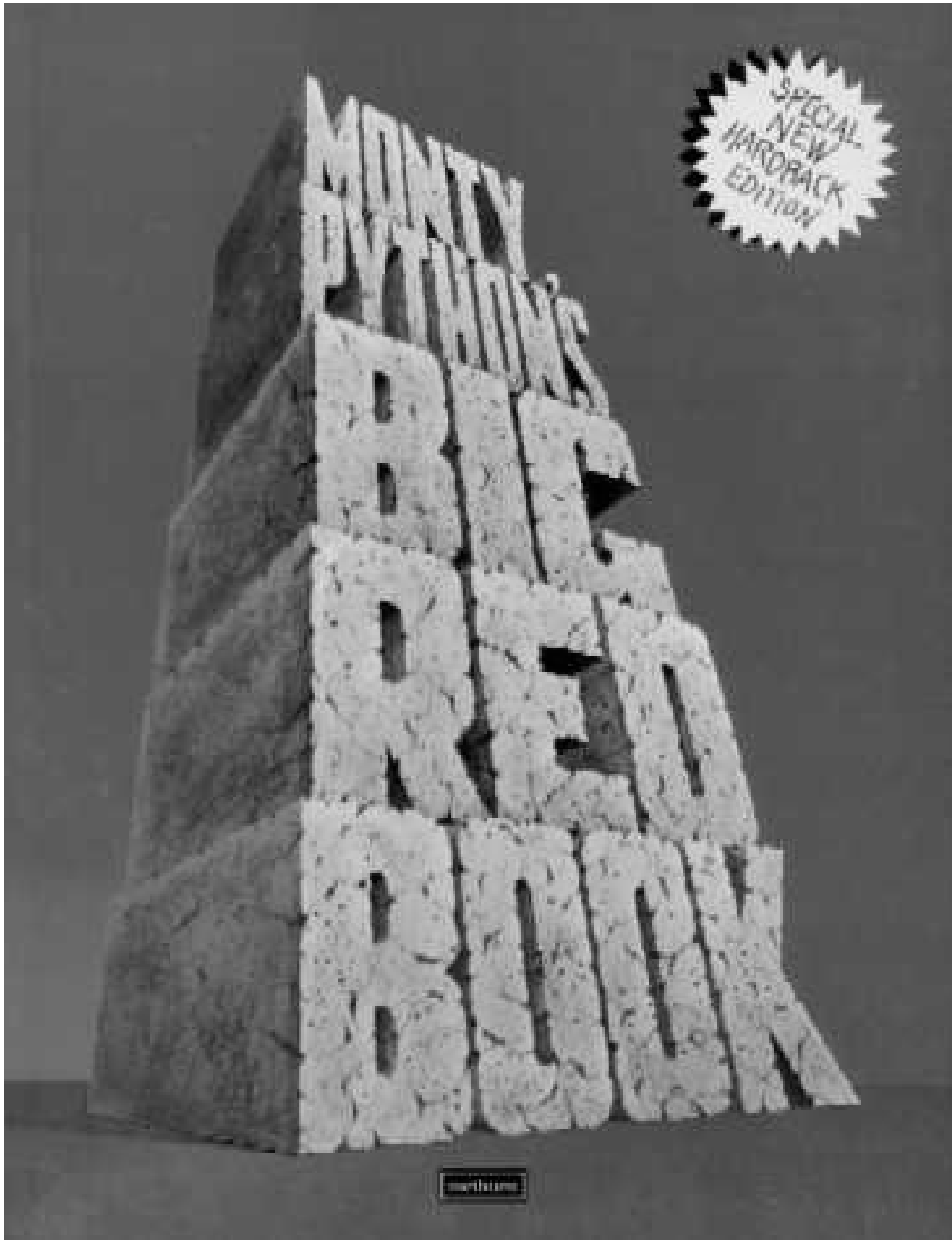


Drabbles: Origins



According to much fan research, Wikipedia, a few posters to the LiveJournal community fanthropology, the term drabble originates from the book shown above: *Monty Python's Big Red Book*: "Drabble. A word game for 2 to 4 players. The four players sit from left to right and the first person to write a novel wins."

Drabbles: Origins

Drabbles: Historical Definitions

1995

- Someone told me that the title doesn't count towards the 100-word form of a Drabble, (Greg McElhatton. "Another Drabble" to alt.drwho.creative. April 9, 1995.)

1997

- Drabbles : Stories of 100 words (precisely) (Alan Taylor. "DRABBLE: The Way Down" to alt.drwho.creative. July 27, 1997.)

2000

- drabble A story of exactly 100 words (katz. "Alt.StarTrek.Creative FAQ Posting Codes" to alt.startrek.creative. October 14, 2000.)

2003

- A drabble is, by definition, **100 words**. Try your damndest to get to 100 words exactly. Posting a 98-word or a 102-word somethingorother isn't drabbling, it's near-drabbling. (<http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=challenge100&mode=full>)

2004

- Appalling thought, that, since it means yet more people are going to be wandering around with this misconception of what a drabble is. Generally speaking, I try to be an "anything goes in fandom" kinda gal, and just take people's individual definitions in stride. The thing is, let's say you've got someone who declares she doesn't like drabbles, and you get someone who agrees with her, and someone who doesn't, and these two someones start debating with each other, and one or the other of them mentions the 100-word limit, and the original poster pops up and says, "Oh, I define drabble as anything under 500 words." (<http://www.trickster.org/symposium/symp162.html>)

2005

- For this we use a looser definition of drabble, 100-150 words in exact multiples of 5. (<http://isis.arithmancy.net/stories.htm>)
- A vignette which is exactly 100 words long, no more, no less. The term may have originated in Doctor Who fandom, certainly it's the first place I encountered it, and I couldn't find it in my dictionary. From this people also refer to a double-drabble (200 words) and a half-drabble (50 words) (<http://www.katspace.org/fandom/fandef.html>)

Drabbles: Historical Definitions

Drabbles: Fandom History of the Drabble

The term drabble originated with *Monty Python's Big Red Book* dating to 1971. (Wikipedia)

The term continued to float around. By the mid1980s, it was being used in the science fiction community, at various conventions and other fan gatherings. By 1988, the term was being used in the main stream science fiction community. There were several books of published drabbles by professional authors. Included in the 1988 book *Drabble Project* was one by Terry Pratchett and one by Isaac Asimov. *Magazine of Fantasy and Science fiction* also ran a contest for drabbles.

By 1990, the term was being used on-line. One of the first mentions of, with the 100 word definition, it on Usenet was in May of 1990 on rec.arts.sf-lovers though there might be an earlier reference as most Usenet archives are not complete.

One of the earliest references to a drabble in a purely fannish context on-line was on alt.startrek.creative in July of 1993. Some one mentioned a drabble by Kate Orman, a *Doctor Who* and *Star Trek* fan fiction writer. Given the discussion, it is obvious the drabble was posted to the community earlier.

In September of 1993, David Howe and David Ware were the editors of the ten released book *Drabble Who* which contained drabbles set in the *Doctor Who* universe. This was a professional book.

By 2000, probably earlier, the term drabble was being used in the Swedish and Finnish fan fiction communities. The usage of the term in this community probably predates this.

On *LiveJournal*, there are a number of drabble specific communities. Some are listed below with their founding dates:

- 🌸 [animedrabble](#) 2002-11-12 Anime drabbles
- 🌸 [hpdabble](#) 2002-09-18 Harry Potter drables
- 🌸 [buffydrabble](#) 2003-01-22 Buffy Drabbles
- 🌸 [angeldrabble](#) 2003-02-23 Angel Drabbles
- 🌸 [wednesday100](#) 2003-03-06 Smallville drables
- 🌸 [sunday100](#) 2003-03-29 Angel and Buffy drabbles
- 🌸 [stargate100](#) 2003-04-15 Stargate Drabble Community
- 🌸 [csi100](#) 2003-04-15 CSI drabble community
- 🌸 [alias100](#) 2003-06-21 Alias drabble community
- 🌸 [100slashywords](#) 2003-06-03 100 Slashy Words
- 🌸 [pretender100](#) 2003-12-17 Pretender drabbles
- 🌸 [atlantis100](#) 2004-07-11 Stargate Atlantis Drabble Community
- 🌸 [dt100](#) 2004-09-14 Power Rangers Dino Thunder drabble community
- 🌸 [100_fruit](#) 2004-10-14 100 Fruit - a Furuba Drabble Challenge Community
- 🌸 [bsg_current_100](#) 2005-03-16 Battlestar Galactica in One Hundred Words

Drabbles: Fandom History of the Drabble

Drabbles: Timeline of Usage

Below is a timeline of usage in a fandom of the word drabble, meaning a 100 word piece of fan fiction, in a particular fannish community. The dates are based on zine publishing dates, LiveJournal community starting, mailing list and Usenet postings and story publication dates. Because of these many different factors, actual usage may predate the year listed.

1988

- Doctor Who

1990

- Star Trek
- Star Wars

1995

- Star Trek: The Next Generation

1996

- Highlander

1997

- Inspector Gadget
- Narnia
- Never Ending Story
- Quantum Leap
- Sentinel
- The X-Files

1998

- Daria
- Kung Fu, The Legend Continues
- Starsky and Hutch

1999

- Blake's 7

2000

- Robin of Sherwood
- Star Trek Deep Space Nine
- Star Trek Voyager

2002

- Harry Potter
- The Professionals
- Smallville
- Stargate

2003

- Action
- Alias
- Angel
- Buffy: The Vampire Slayer
- CSI
- League of Extraordinary Gentlemen
- Lord of the Rings
- Power Rangers
- Pretender
- Series of Unfortunate Events
- West Wing
- X-Men

2004

- Battlestar Galatica
- Charmed
- Classical Greek mythology
- Furuba
- Horatio Hornblower
- Lost

2005

- Dead Zone
- Dragon Ball Z
- Getbackers
- Stargate Atlantis
- SWAT Cats

