

# Cambridge Elements

Elements in Digital Literary Studies

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## THE SHAPES OF STORIES

*Sentiment Analysis for Narrative*

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## The Shapes of Stories

### Sentiment Analysis for Narrative

Elements in Digital Literary Studies

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**Abstract:** Sentiment analysis has gained widespread adoption in many fields but not – until now – in literary studies. Scholars have lacked a robust methodology that adapts the tool to the skills and questions central to literary scholars. Also lacking has been quantitative data to help the scholar choose between the many models. Which model is best for which narrative and why? By comparing more than three dozen models, including the latest deep learning artificial intelligence (AI), the author details how to choose the correct model – or set of models – depending on the unique affective fingerprint of a narrative. The author also demonstrates how to combine a clustered close reading of textual cruxes in order to interpret a narrative. By analyzing a diverse and cross-cultural range of texts in a series of case studies, the Element highlights new insights into the many shapes of stories.

**Keywords:** sentiment analysis, narrative studies, digital humanities, affective AI, emotional arc

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## Contents

1 The Birth of a Field	1
2 Methods	27
3 The Shapes of Stories	70
Appendix: Sentiment Arcs	109
References	110