Public Domain Resources

At the start of every year, all kinds of works (images, texts, source code, art, scripts, etc.) get added to the Public Domain.

What exactly is Public Domain?

Essentially it means that these items are no longer restricted by copyright laws and can be used by anyone. In the United States, copyright laws have a bunch of small caveats, but the most notable clauses for entering works into the public domain are 95 years after first publication or 70 years after the creator has died.
In 2024, this first incarnation of Mickey Mouse, from Steamboat Willie, entered the Public Domain.

Here are few resources to help you search for works within the Public Domain:

https://www.gutenberg.org

https://marketingartfully.com/huge-list-of-public-domain-stories/

One of the great aspects working with items in the Public Domain is that there are many incarnations, designs, styles, and versions of or inspired the original form. Many designers use Public Domain works are source of inspiration because they do not have to worry about copyright laws.

Tips for the Paperback Project

- *Take a little time to explore.*
  - o Look through different books, take in the titles, read the synopsis of some stories.
  - o Find something that speaks to you.
- *Google*
  - o Look at some different cover styles of the story you have chosen.
- *Think about your theme or design style.*
  - o Minimalist designs will have a way different look and feel to Art Deco.
  - o Think about and explore the typefaces you want to use.
  - o What image/visual will you include?