This talk takes a 2010 "translation" of Moby Dick into emoji as an opportunity to consider the conditions of possibility that might delimit books and literature in the contemporary moment. A massive white codex and extended work of crowd-sorcery, "Emoji Dick" points toward the varieties of reading and—especially—of not reading that characterize our ever more digitally mediated and data-described world. Here I proceed by locating "Emoji Dick" alongside an absurd sequel, "Emoji Dickinson."

Professor Lisa Gitelman is a media historian whose research concerns American book history, techniques of inscription, and the new media of yesterday and today. She is currently chair of NYU’s Department of Media, Culture, and Communication.

All welcome regardless of digital humanities experience. "Noodle" lunch served.

Questions? Contact NUDHL co-convener Jillana Enteen, j-enteen@northwestern.edu, or visit nudhl.net.

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