

1. FEED

Titus is connected to something called “the feed.” This device is part of his body and connects him to a huge computer network. The feed affects around 70% of the global population, showing them ads and telling them what to buy. It has also replaced teachers, though it only educates people about fashion and cool items. Titus and his friends have been hooked up to the feed since they were infants. It controls their lives.

On a trip to the moon, Titus meets Violet in a club. Since Violet was raised in a traditional manner, she didn’t get the feed until she was seven. When a hacker disconnects people from their feeds, Titus and his friends go into shock. They recover in a hospital, where Titus and Violet begin a romantic relationship. However, Violet’s feed is not properly repaired.

Back on Earth, Titus and Violet grow closer. She questions everything about the world. Titus soon starts seeing things in a new light, too. Finally, she reveals her plan to him—she wants to resist the feed.

The feed creates a customer profile of everyone and uses this to pick which commercials to show them. Violet and Titus try to confuse the feed. They go to a mall and look at all sorts of random items without buying anything.

Soon, however, Violet realizes something’s wrong. The feed is getting information about her from her dreams. There have been other problems, too. Her feed is not working correctly and this is causing her limbs and organs to fail. The network’s customer support won’t help her because of her previous actions at the mall. What’s worse, she even loses her memories of the years before she got the feed.

Released in 2002, *Feed* is set in the near future, but contains obvious references to current society. One of the main ideas in the book is the dangers of technology. The story’s feed, like our internet, has become a necessary part of life. Thanks to the feed, no one needs to think or learn new things. Most people can’t even read or write. Technology may be amazing, but it comes at a price.

Another danger in the story is consumerism. The feed is owned and managed by corporations. They control the world, while governments are basically powerless. Everything comes from these companies—news, education, even hospitals—and their only goal is to sell products.

Another idea in the book is self-discovery. As soon as Titus loses his connection to the feed, he has to think for himself. This allows him to fall in love with Violet and appreciate her unusual qualities. With Violet’s help, he’s able to ignore the feed and make his own decisions.

2. Disney Parks Around the World

Imagine walking through a set of gates in to a magical land of fairy-tale castles and cartoon characters brought to life. This is what it's like to enter a Disney park, no matter which of its six resorts around the world you visit. However, each park has its own unique personality.

Being the oldest Disney park, Disneyland in California has a classic feel. Well-known rides like Space Mountain and it's a Small World all began here, and were approved by Walt Disney himself. It's also the first park where you can visit a galaxy far, far, away at the Star Wars-themed Galaxy's Edge.

On the other side of the United States, Walt Disney World in Florida is the largest Disney resort in the world. Arrive an hour before the park opens and head to Main Street, USA, for the Magic Kingdom's welcome show. It's a performance from Mickey and his friends featuring a train, music, fireworks, and a welcome song. Then head over to Pirates of the Caribbean and meet the one and only Jack Sparrow on the ride that the films of the same name were based on.

In Europe, you can take in some of the best views of any Disney park at Disneyland Paris. Here, Finding Nemo fans will love Crush's Coaster where they can ride a turtle shell through the Great Barrier Reef.

In addition to its European resort, Disney has resorts in Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Shanghai. Tokyo Disney includes DisneySea: a park that features an erupting volcano located at its heart. Be sure to catch the night parade—a 20-minute-long show that takes place on a ship in the Mediterranean-themed harbor. Hon Kong Disneyland has the popular attractions of other Disneylands, but since it is the smallest of all the parks you can spend less time walking. The main draw at Shanghai Disneyland Park is the Tron Lightcycle Power Run, one of the fastest rides you will come across at any theme park. Straddle your bike as you speed forward at close to 100 km/h without a seat belt.

Over the years, the magic of Disneyland has brought joy to people of all ages. Why not visit one of these unique parks and experience a whole new world for yourself?

3. The History and Modern Uses of the Quick Response Code

Cleverly designed and extremely useful, QR codes are everywhere. But for something so common, how much do you know about them?

The QR code's horizontal and vertical arrangement of white and black squares was inspired by the board game Go. The code itself was invented in 1994 by a Japanese company as a replacement for bar codes to track items in factories. At the time, bar codes were difficult to scan, didn't work when damaged, and didn't contain much data. The QR code improved on the bar code in almost every way.

Unlike bar codes, a QR code can be scanned from any direction or angle. This is because it is designed with a small box close to one corner and three bigger boxes in the other corners to indicate which way the QR code should be read. In addition, even if part of the code is damaged, it can still be read because the data in a QR code is repeated. Lastly, by containing data both vertically and horizontally, QR codes can carry hundreds of times more data than bar codes.

The QR code has come a long way since its invention. Now, anyone can create their own QR code, and most smartphones can read them. This has led to companies using QR codes in fresh and interesting ways.

Many people already use QR codes to safely buy items with their phones or to add their friends' Line or Facebook. However, QR codes are also used as ID tags for pets. With a scan of your phone, you can find out the pet's name, important data, and how to contact its owner. Along the same lines, Japanese people are putting QR code stickers on senior citizens suffering from dementia to help them get home in case they get lost. Other uses include: taking out money from ATMs with a QR code instead of a card or PIN, using QR codes as paperless train or plane tickets, and accessing patients' medical histories with QR codes.

It's amazing to think that the QR code began as a simple replacement for bar codes. With so many new ways to use them, who knows what they'll be capable of soon?