

Centering Horizontally & Vertically

Cascading Style Sheets Come Through

R. Scott Granneman & Jans Carton

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Horizontal


```
text-align: center
```



```
HTML
1 <h1>The Case of Charles Dexter
  Ward<small>H.P. Lovecraft</small></h1>
2 <blockquote>
3   <p>
4     “The essential Saltes of Animals
      may be so prepared and preserved, that
      an ingenious Man may have the whole
      Ark of Noah in his own Studie, and
      raise the fine Shape of an Animal out
      of its Ashes at his Pleasure; and by
      the lyke Method from the essential
      Saltes of humane Dust, a Philosopher
      may, without any criminal Necromancy,
      call up the Shape of any dead
      Ancestour from the Dust whereinto his
      Bodie has been incinerated.” —BORELLUS
5   </p>
6 </blockquote>
7 <h2>I. A Result and a Prologue</h2>

CSS
1 h1, h2, h3 {
2   text-align: center;
3 }

JS
```

The Case of Charles Dexter Ward

H.P. Lovecraft

“The essential Saltes of Animals may be so prepared and preserved, that an ingenious Man may have the whole Ark of Noah in his own Studie, and raise the fine Shape of an Animal out of its Ashes at his Pleasure; and by the lyke Method from the essential Saltes of humane Dust, a Philosopher may, without any criminal Necromancy, call up the Shape of any dead Ancestour from the Dust whereinto his Bodie has been incinerated.” —BORELLUS

I. A Result and a Prologue

1.

From a private hospital for the insane near Providence, Rhode Island, there recently disappeared an exceedingly singular person. He bore the name of Charles Dexter Ward, and was placed under restraint most reluctantly by the grieving father who had watched his aberration grow from a mere eccentricity to a dark mania involving both a possibility of murderous tendencies and a profound and peculiar change in the apparent contents of his mind. Doctors confess themselves quite baffled by his case, since it presented oddities of a general physiological as well as psychological character.

Only works for text & inline boxes, not block boxes

margin-*


```
HTML
1 <div class="center">
2   <h1>The Lurking Fear<small>H.P.
  Lovecraft</small></h1>
3   <p>
4     There was thunder in the air on
    the night I went to the deserted
    mansion atop Tempest Mountain to
    find the lurking fear. I was not
    alone, for foolhardiness was not
    then mixed with that love of the
    grotesque and the terrible which has

CSS
1 h1 {
2   text-align: center;
3 }
4
5 .center {
6   width: 600px; /* required */
7   margin-left: auto; /* required */
8   margin-right: auto; /* required */
9   border: 1px dotted gray;
10  padding: 0 1em;
11 }

JS
```

The Lurking Fear

H.P. Lovecraft

There was thunder in the air on the night I went to the deserted mansion atop Tempest Mountain to find the lurking fear. I was not alone, for foolhardiness was not then mixed with that love of the grotesque and the terrible which has made my career a series of quests for strange horrors in literature and in life. With me were two faithful and muscular men for whom I had sent when the time came; men long associated with me in my ghastly explorations because of their peculiar fitness.

We had started quietly from the village because of the reporters who still lingered about after the eldritch panic of a month before—the nightmare creeping death. Later, I thought, they might aid me; but I did not want them then. Would to God I had let them share the search, that I might not have had to bear the secret alone so long; to bear it alone for fear the world would call me mad or go mad itself at the daemon implications of the thing. Now that I am telling it anyway, lest the brooding make me a maniac, I wish I had never concealed it. For I, and I only, know what manner of fear

Only works for block & related boxes, not text


```
.center {  
  width: 600px;  
  margin-left: auto;  
  margin-right: auto;  
}
```

You can instead use this shorthand:

```
.center {  
  width: 600px;  
  margin: 0 auto;  
}
```


Via Bootstrap

HTML

1

<div class="container">

2

<div class="row">

3

<!-- center block -->

4

<div class="center-block">

5

<!-- center text -->

6

<h1 class="text-center">The Lurking

7

Fear<small>H.P. Lovecraft</small></h1>

8

<p>

9

There was thunder in the air on the

10

night I went to the deserted mansion atop

CSS (SCSS)

1

/* Bootstrap overrides */

2

3

h1 {

4

line-height: 1.5;

5

small {

6

font-size: 80%;

7

}

8

}

9

10

.center-block {

11

width: 600px; /* required */

12

border: 1px dotted gray;

JS

The Lurking Fear

H.P. Lovecraft

There was thunder in the air on the night I went to the deserted mansion atop Tempest Mountain to find the lurking fear. I was not alone, for foolhardiness was not then mixed with that love of the grotesque and the terrible which has made my career a series of quests for strange horrors in literature and in life. With me were two faithful and muscular men for whom I had sent when the time came; men long associated with me in my ghastly explorations because of their peculiar fitness.

We had started quietly from the village because of the reporters who still lingered about after the eldritch panic of a month before—the nightmare creeping death. Later, I thought, they might aid me; but I did not want them then. Would to God I had let them share the search, that I might not have had to bear the secret alone so long; to bear it alone for fear the world would call me mad or go mad itself at the daemon implications of the thing. Now that I am telling it anyway, lest the brooding make me a maniac. I wish I had never concealed it. For I, and I

What Bootstrap does with those classes:

```
.center-block {  
  display: block;  
  margin-left: auto;  
  margin-right: auto;  
}
```

```
.text-center {  
  text-align: center;  
}
```


Flexbox


```
justify-content: center
```

Aligns flex items at the *center of the flex container*,
going left-to-right





Vertical

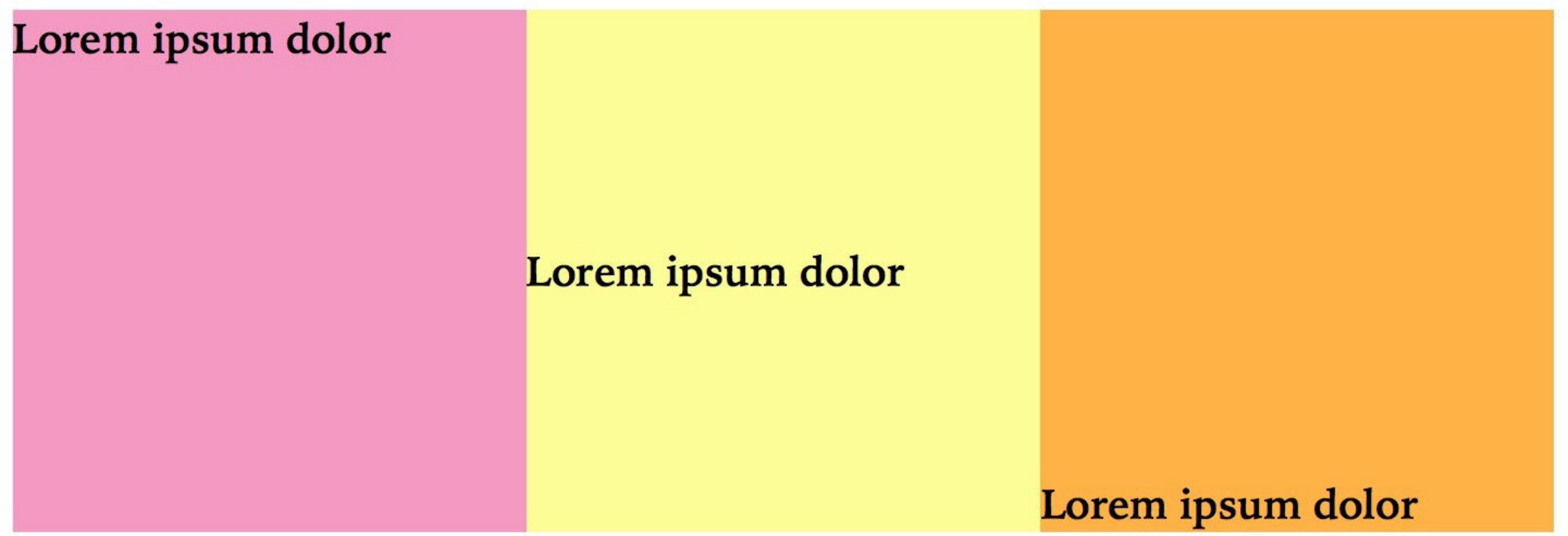
display: table-cell

⚙ HTML

```
1 <div class="top">
2   <p>Lorem ipsum dolor</p>
3 </div>
4
5 <div class="middle">
6   <p>Lorem ipsum dolor<p>
7 </div>
8
9 <div class="bottom">
10  <p>Lorem ipsum dolor</p>
11 </div>
```

⚙ CSS

⚙ JS



HTML

CSS

JS

```
1 div {
2   display: table-cell;
3   height: 300px;
4   width: 300px;
5 }
6
7 p {
8   display: inline; /* Margins gone */
9 }
10
11 .top {
12   background-color: #F49AC2;
13   vertical-align: top;
14 }
15
16 .middle {
17   background-color: #FDFD96;
18   vertical-align: middle;
19 }
20
21 .bottom {
22   background-color: #FFB347;
23   vertical-align: bottom;
```



Flexbox

`align-items: center`

Flex items *stack from the center of the cross axis* of the flex container



HTML

Tidy

1

<div class="flex-container">

2

<div class="flex-item flex-1">1</div>

3

<div class="flex-item flex-2">2</div>

4

<div class="flex-item flex-3">3</div>

5

<div class="flex-item flex-4">4</div>

6

<div class="flex-item flex-5">5</div>

7

</div>

CSS

TidyView Compiled

1

.flex-container {

2

display: flex;

3

height: 6em;

4

align-items: center;

5

/* align-items: stretch;

6

align-items: flex-start;

7

align-items: flex-end;

8

align-items: baseline; */

9

}

10

11

.flex-item {

12

width: 90px;

13

background-color: yellow;

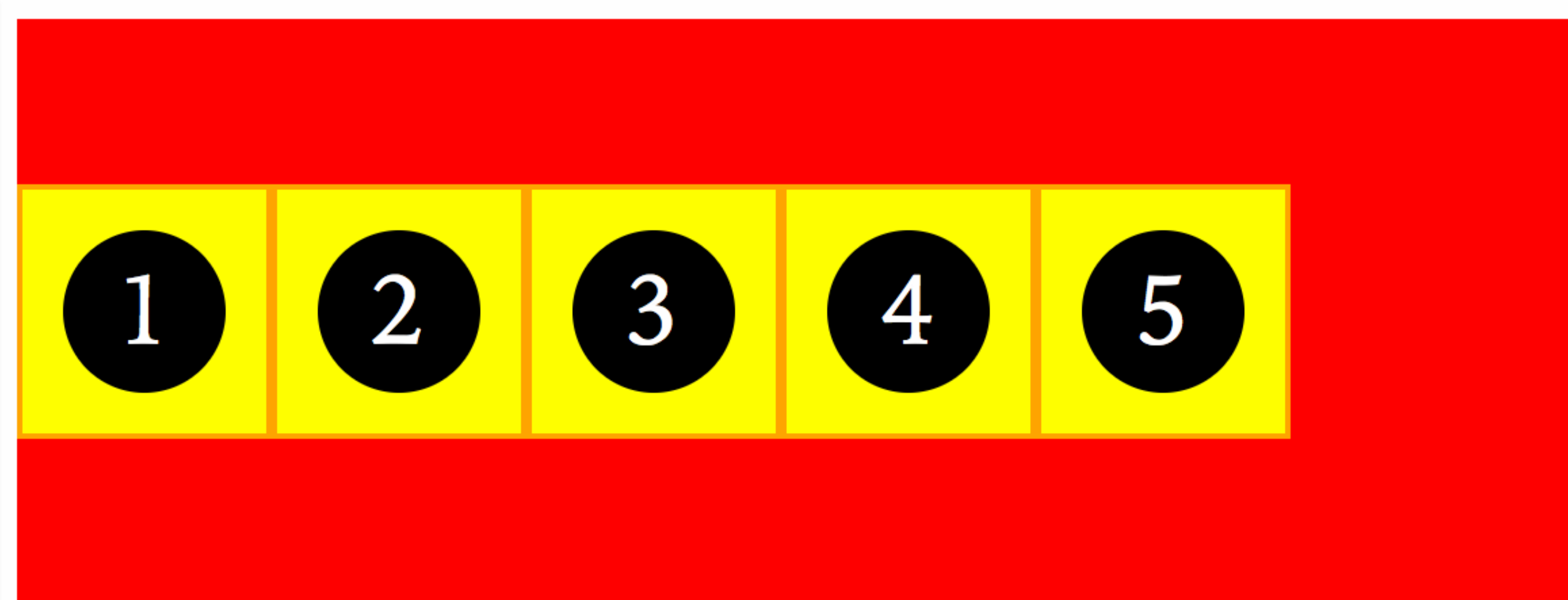
14

border: 2px solid orange;

15

}

16



Horizontal & Vertical

Fixed Width & Height

⚙ HTML ▾

1 ▾ <main>

2 ▾ <div>

3 There was thunder in the air on the night I went to the deserted mansion atop Tempest Mountain to find the lurking fear. I was not alone, for foolhardiness was not then mixed with that love of the grotesque and the terrible which has made my career a series of quests for strange horrors in literature and in life. With me were two faithful and muscular men for whom I had sent when the time came; men long associated with me in my ghastly explorations because of their peculiar fitness.

4 </div>

5 </main>

⚙ CSS ▾

⚙ JS ▾

There was thunder in the air on the night I went to the deserted mansion atop Tempest Mountain to find the lurking fear. I was not alone, for foolhardiness was not then mixed with that love of the grotesque and the terrible which has made my career a series of quests for strange horrors in literature and in life. With me were two faithful and muscular men for whom I had sent when the time came; men long associated with me in my ghastly explorations because of their peculiar fitness.

⚙ HTML

⚙ CSS

```
1 main {
2   position: relative;
3   background: white;
4   height: 600px;
5   width: 80%;
6   margin: 0 auto;
7   padding: 20px;
8   resize: both;
9   overflow: auto;
10 }
11
12 div {
13   padding: 20px;
14   height: 400px;
15   width: 500px;
16   /* top (-height/2 - padding =
    -220) right bottom left (-width/2
    - padding = -270) */
17   margin: -220px 0 0 -270px;
18   position: absolute;
19   top: 50%;
20   left: 50%;
```

⚙ JS

There was thunder in the air on the night I went to the deserted mansion atop Tempest Mountain to find the lurking fear. I was not alone, for foolhardiness was not then mixed with that love of the grotesque and the terrible which has made my career a series of quests for strange horrors in literature and in life. With me were two faithful and muscular men for whom I had sent when the time came; men long associated with me in my ghastly explorations because of their peculiar fitness.


```
HTML
CSS
1 main {
2   position: relative;
3   background: white;
4   height: 600px;
5   width: 80%;
6   margin: 0 auto;
7   padding: 20px;
8   resize: both;
9   overflow: auto;
10 }
11
12 div {
13   padding: 20px;
14   height: 400px;
15   width: 500px;
16   /* top (-height/2 - padding =
    -220) right bottom left (-width/2
    - padding = -270) */
17   margin: -220px 0 0 -270px;
18   position: absolute;
19   top: 50%;
20   left: 50%;
JS
```

There was thunder in the air on the night I went to the deserted mansion atop Tempest Mountain to find the lurking fear. I was not alone, for foolhardiness was not then mixed with that love of the grotesque and the terrible which has made my career a series of quests for strange horrors in literature and in life. With me were two faithful and muscular men for whom I had sent when the time came; men long associated with me in my ghastly explorations because of their peculiar fitness.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{top} &= (-\text{height}/2) - \text{padding} \\ &= (-400/2) - 20 = -220\text{px} \\ \text{left} &= (-\text{width}/2) - \text{padding} \\ &= (-500/2) - 20 = -270\text{px}\end{aligned}$$

Very good browser support

Unknown
Width & Height

⚙ HTML ▾

```
1 <main>
2   <div>
3     There was thunder in the air
      on the night I went to the
      deserted mansion atop Tempest
      Mountain to find the lurking
      fear. I was not alone, for
      foolhardiness was not then mixed
      with that love of the grotesque
      and the terrible which has made
      my career a series of quests for
      strange horrors in literature and
      in life. With me were two
      faithful and muscular men for
      whom I had sent when the time
      came; men long associated with me
      in my ghastly explorations
      because of their peculiar
      fitness.
4   </div>
5 </main>
```

⚙ CSS ▾

⚙ JS ▾

There was thunder in the air on the night I went to the deserted mansion atop Tempest Mountain to find the lurking fear. I was not alone, for foolhardiness was not then mixed with that love of the grotesque and the terrible which has made my career a series of quests for strange horrors in literature and in life. With me were two faithful and muscular men for whom I had sent when the time came; men long associated with me in my ghastly explorations because of their peculiar fitness.

HTML

CSS

```
1 main {
2   position: relative;
3   background: white;
4   height: 600px;
5   width: 80%;
6   margin: 0 auto;
7   padding: 20px;
8   resize: both;
9   overflow: auto;
10 }
11
12 div {
13   padding: 20px;
14   width: 500px;
15   /* translate of -50% in both
16      directions is based on current
17      width/height of the element */
18   transform: translate(-50%,
19                        -50%);
20   position: absolute;
21   top: 50%;
22   left: 50%;
23 }
```

JS

There was thunder in the air on the night I went to the deserted mansion atop Tempest Mountain to find the lurking fear. I was not alone, for foolhardiness was not then mixed with that love of the grotesque and the terrible which has made my career a series of quests for strange horrors in literature and in life. With me were two faithful and muscular men for whom I had sent when the time came; men long associated with me in my ghastly explorations because of their peculiar fitness.

display: table-cell

⚙ HTML

1

<div class="top">

2

<p>Lorem ipsum dolor</p>

3

</div>

4

5

<div class="middle">

6

<p>Lorem ipsum dolor<p>

7

</div>

8

9

<div class="bottom">

10

<p>Lorem ipsum dolor</p>

11

</div>

⚙ CSS

⚙ JS

HTML

CSS

JS

```
1

{
2  display: table-cell;
3  height: 300px;
4  width: 300px;
5 }
6
7p {
8  display: inline; /* No margins */
9 }
10
11.top {
12  background-color: #F49AC2;
13  vertical-align: top;
14  text-align: center;
15 }
16
17.middle {
18  background-color: #FDFD96;
19  vertical-align: middle;
20  text-align: center;
21 }
22


```



Flexbox

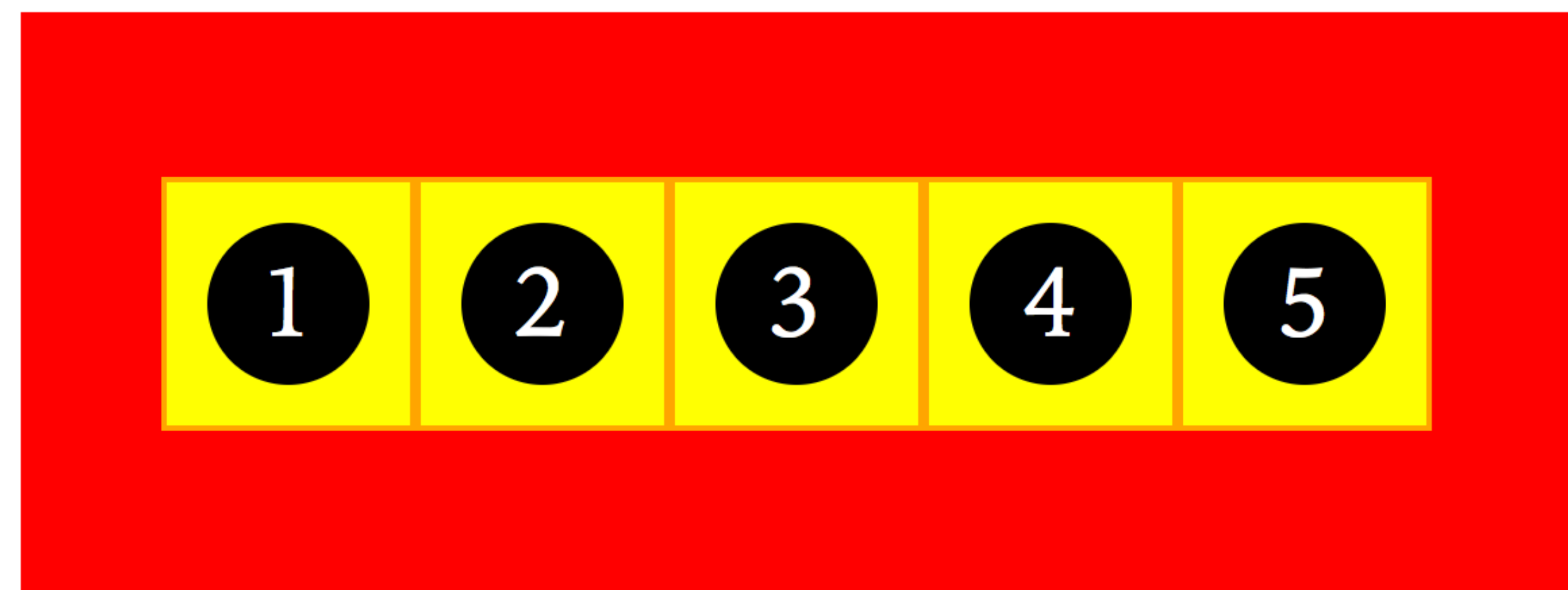
HTMLTidy×

```
1 <div class="flex-container">
2   <div class="flex-item flex-1"><span>1</span></div>
3   <div class="flex-item flex-2"><span>2</span></div>
4   <div class="flex-item flex-3"><span>3</span><!--
   <span>6</span>--></div>
5   <div class="flex-item flex-4"><span>4</span></div>
6   <div class="flex-item flex-5"><span>5</span></div>
7 </div>
```

CSSTidyView Compiled×

```
1 .flex-container {
2   display: flex;
3   height: 6em;
4   /* align-items: stretch;
5   align-items: flex-start;
6   align-items: flex-end; */
7   align-items: center;
8   /* align-items: baseline; */
9   justify-content: center;
10 }
11
12 .flex-item {
13   width: 90px;
14   background-color: yellow;
```

JS Tidy×



Resources



CSS-TRICKS



Centering in CSS: A Complete Guide

BY [CHRIS COYIER](#) ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

Centering things in CSS is the poster child of CSS complaining. *Why does it have to be so hard?* They jeer. I think the issue isn't that it's difficult to do, but in that there so many different ways of doing it, depending on the situation, it's hard to know which to reach for.

So let's make it a decision tree and hopefully make it easier.

I need to center...

Thank you!

scott@granneman.com

www.granneman.com

ChainsawOnATireSwing.com

@scottgranneman

jans@websanity.com

websanity.com

Centering Horizontally & Vertically

Cascading Style Sheets Come Through

R. Scott Granneman & Jans Carton

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Changelog

2017-02-02 1.0: Created slide deck

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