CSS gives great power. But requires great responsibility.
You can do almost anything with CSS.
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Change colors
You can do almost anything with CSS.

Change colors, opacity
You can do almost anything with CSS.

Change colors, opacity, fonts.
You can do almost anything with CSS.

Change colors, opacity, fonts, borders
You can do almost anything with CSS.

But the question is, *should* you?
You can do almost anything with CSS.

But the question is, should you? Or, better, how should you?
Accessibility, sublety, harmony and legibility are keys to design success. Let’s see how that works with colors, cursors and fonts.
Choose your wiki’s colors wisely, according to:

- Emotional impact
- Complementation
- Contrast
Emotional impact

Colors have an emotional impact that is most tied to their vibrancy. Bright (that is, more vibrant) shades of colors tend to make people feel urgency and excitement. Darker shades are more calming.

There's a reason news organizations often choose bright red for their logos and websites.
What’s the right vibrancy for your wiki?

Do you work on a wiki that’s about a fast-paced game? Give some consideration to a bold color scheme.

Be complementary.

Your color scheme, or palette, should confine itself to colors that are in some way complementary.

Unless your topic is itself colorful — as at Steven Universe — don’t use every color under the rainbow, or you risk making your audience’s eyes bleed.
There are three main kinds of complementation.

- Triadic
- Analogous
- Compound
Triadic complementation is when you pick three colors from precisely opposite ends of the color wheel.

Think Superman or Supergirl. Red, Yellow and Blue are a perfect color triad.
Analogous colors are kind of the inverse of triadic. Instead of going to opposite sides of the color wheel, pick colors from adjoining sides of the wheel.

So: yellow, yellow-green, green-yellow and pea green, as we see to the left. Or even light gray, gray, and dark gray.
When you think of definitionally complementary colors, think of Christmas: red and green. That is, pick a color and draw a straight line over to the other side of the color wheel. If two colors seem bland to you, add another pair in exactly the same way to compound your complements.

So use red and green for some things, but lavender and pea green as an accent color-pair.
There are tons of sites that will help you find perfect colors for your wiki.

But a great one is paletton.com.

When you enter your base color, it'll automatically give you several full themes, according to whichever kind of complementation you prefer.
High contrast ratios are good.

The difference in luminescence between your text and background — roughly speaking the “contrast ratio” — is important to keep high.

The highest is pure black (#000) on pure white (#fff), but many other combinations are acceptably legible.
Why go high?

More people will be able to stay on your wiki for longer if you always use a high contrast ratio.

Low contrast ratios cause eyestrain.

Some combinations can even be flatly impossible for some people to see — even if you can read things just fine.

Credit: contrastrebellion.com
Go there today to get more info!
Seek professional analysis.

Don’t just eyeball color contrast. Actually run the colors through any one of thousands of color contrast analyzers. These give you a number on a scale. The best contrast ratios are AAA 7.0 or better.

Analyzers show up everywhere, even in places like MS Word. The image to the left was taken from a pretty old copy of Word, at that.
Get a browser extension.

If you use Chrome, there are several contrast ratio analyzers available as extensions. One created by North Carolina State University has the simple name of “Color Contrast Analyzer”, but there are certainly others.
Go online

There are a lot of places you can go to get a contrast. One of the ones with the best UX design, though, is colorable.jxnblk.com.

Here, you can enter your text and background colors. You get a satisfying “AAA” when you get an AAA rating over 7 — and a big “fail” when you don’t.
ThemeDesigner is your friend.

Although there's plenty of opportunity to color things manually in your CSS, remember that Theme Designer is your friend.

Once you settle on your overall color palette, use Theme Designer to implement it. You'll find your life becomes a whole lot easier.
Think hard about implementing custom cursors.

It's possible to change the cursor on your wiki through CSS. But you probably don't want to, for accessibility reasons alone.
Cursor caution.

People who use their keypad to move the cursor are used to their cursors having certain dimensions. If you radically alter the size of the cursor, you run the risk of frustrating these users, to the point that they give up on your wiki.

For that matter, you could easily annoy a lot of people who don't use accessibility functions. This is especially true if you use images for your cursor that don't obviously point to anything, like round emojis.

This is a real custom cursor. Problem is, neither the pointy bit at the bottom, nor the bit at the top, is precisely what's used to click on things. Instead, the active area is somewhere in the middle.
There are two easy ways to add fonts to your wiki.

Font stacks

Google Fonts import
Font stacks.

Font stacks lists of similar fonts, created in the hope that one of them resides on your readers’ local computers.

You don’t have to upload a font to your wiki, so text rendering is faster.
Fandom’s base stack.

For its body text, Fandom generally uses the stack on the left.

When you build a font-stack, you want to make sure all the fonts within it are reasonably similar, as they are in this case. But you also want to put the "rarer" fonts first. In this case, "Helvetica Neue" is on fewer computers, globally, so you put it first to guarantee that those people who have it installed will actually see it.

body {
  font-family:
  "Helvetica Neue",
  Arial,
  sans-serif
}
There are lots of places to go for help with font stacks. But a great one is cssfontstack.com. It lets you check out different fonts to see how common they are globally. This is key to being able to build a stack that has a high chance of success.

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**Century Gothic CSS Font Stack**

**Preview Your Fonts**

Your headline is in Century Gothic

This is a sub heading in Century Gothic:

This paragraph is in Century Gothic. Keep reading for how to use the buttons to the left. Change your settings, and choose what section you want the font to apply to. Once you are pleased with the settings for that section you can click save. Your selections will remain as you look for another font for another section of this preview.

Another sub heading in Century Gothic:

The setting for a paragraph continues down here. There is a blockquote next to it. You may want to make that stand out.

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The setting for a paragraph continues down here. There is a blockquote next to it. You may want to make that stand out.

*This text is in Century Gothic* class { font-family: CenturyGothic,CenturyGothic,ArialGothic,sans-serif; }
All their equipment and instruments are alive.

I watched the storm, so beautiful yet terrific.

A shining crescent far beneath the flying vessel.
Pick your font.

Go to fonts.google.com. Select only the fonts that you actually need. Don't pick too many fonts, or you could unnecessarily slow down your wiki's page loads. By default, Google will only choose 400 weight, regular style of a font, so that your wiki doesn't get bogged down with a lot of unnecessary variations.
Let's say I wanted to get Lato on my wiki. I'd go to the Embed | @import tab and copy this line to the top of my MediaWiki:Wikia.css file:

```css
@import url('https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Lato');
```

Then, wherever I wanted to use Lato in my CSS, I'd add this rule:

```css
font-family: 'Lato', sans-serif;
```

Easy.
Do the embed.

Let's say I wanted to get Lato on my wiki. I'd go to the Embed | @import tab and copy this line to the top of my MediaWiki:Wikia.css file:

```css
@import url('https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Lato');
```

Then, wherever I wanted to use Lato in my CSS, I'd add this rule:

```css
font-family: 'Lato', sans-serif;
```

Easy.
Pair ‘em up!

Of course, that's just the mechanics of getting a new font onto your wiki. Figuring out which fonts look good together is something people build whole careers out of. But, here are some pro-tips:

• Don't go crazy. Either just change your headers, or have a single combination of headers and body text.

• It's usually distracting to have different fonts on infoboxes, navboxes or other elements than you have in the main part of your pages.
Get some pairing suggestions.

Pairing fonts is a thing that could well make you crazy. So don’t be afraid to look at some sites made by people who have already been driven crazy.

A good place to go, particularly if you’re using Google Fonts, is fontpair.co (not .com)

Sans-Serif/Serif

Cabin and Old Standard TT

All of this text is editable. Simply click anywhere in the paragraph or heading text and start typing. You can copy and paste your own content in to see what it looks like with these font combinations.

Heading: Cabin
Body: Old Standard TT
Download Font Pair

Fjalla One and Average

All of this text is editable. Simply click anywhere in the paragraph or heading text and start typing. You can copy and paste your own content in to see what it looks like with these font combinations.

Heading: Fjalla One
Body: Average
Download Font Pair