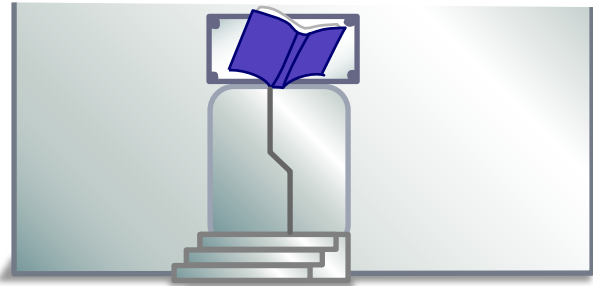
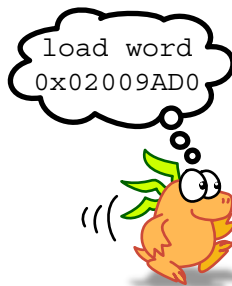


# Caches: What Are They For?

For computers, memory accesses are like going to the library,



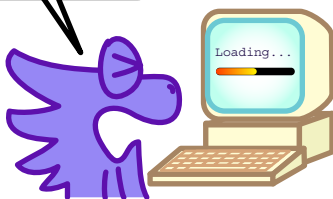
Finding the necessary information in the page of a book,



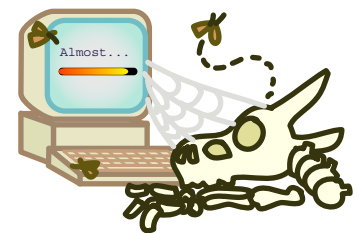
And going back home to do the work involving that information.



Hurry up, will ya?!



While computers don't mind going back and forth like this for data, it usually means users have to do a lot of waiting.



Fortunately for users, computers have caches, which is the equivalent of keeping copies of the books needed on a shelf near the workspace. Through a number of mechanisms, caches give the illusion of being able to access memory very quickly!

