

# Gamers Without Borders

Dan Bull

Video games helped me survive through the hardest times  
Gaming kept me alive through the darkest nights  
Gaming let me live a little life in my mind  
That I could quit if I didn't like it but wouldn't have known it  
If I didn't try, think of it as a different type of literature, cinema  
The vision of a different eye, my daily life changed  
Since I've game-ified it, made it mine  
It wouldn't be the same if I'd stayed inside my ailing mind  
I've been failing life, unable to find a way to hide it  
This pain inside gets greater yet I'm taking pride in it  
My brain is trying, playing mind games so I'm playing my games  
To stabilise and save my life, games let me keep score  
When otherwise I wouldn't be able to summarise  
The basic reason why I'm even here for  
See a door and open it, see a portal, go for it  
See, although you're motionless  
You know to click and open up that coconut  
We speak for those that haven't spoken up  
There's loads of us, we were asleep but now we've woken up  
Games helped me survive through the hardest times  
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Although on the surface it seemed I was sitting isolated  
My purpose really was to socialize outside my cage  
You see, this virtual world was the environment  
I'd find my mates in and be part of something larger  
Than the size of my location  
I came to judge others on character traits and not their nation  
Learnt team work, communication and co-operation  
I played Civilization with other civilizations  
Traded shots, gifts and information  
Give and take, my Game Boy's old and grey  
But it's the same Game Boy that I hold today  
How could I have sold it?  
Faced the pain of seeing it thrown away?  
So now, it sits by my Switch, another generation  
Gaming gave me a rich extracurricular education  
I went to places and ages school never bothered teaching  
The USSR to Egypt and even more farther reaching  
I've been part of the crowds in revolutionary France  
Fleetingly felt what it felt to give a brand new future a chance

I empathised with other points of view, living in a bubble  
What else was a country boy to do?  
In fact, I took my surroundings for granted 'til my eyes  
Fell upon an Oblivion sunset, nearly cried  
Waited for the dawn to come, morning sun  
Feel it rise, now I appreciate experiencing the real skies  
I come outside, summer rain splashes on the paving  
And I'm like, "These graphics are amazing!"  
How many polygons are in a single drop of liquid?  
The figure's probably bigger than even your God predicted  
The laws of physics are a code by which we're not restricted  
'Cause we've been modding it since the first bit of rock was lifted  
Real life and VR life are going to be like Spot the Difference  
It's not really a surprise, we realize we got addicted  
Logging in can steal time until we've lost the big picture  
Popular opinions we see online are often twisted

But despite the cost of this, I'm highly optimistic  
To leaf the drop and reach the top  
We've got to risk it, we've got to paint on the wall of the cave  
Unless we want to keep replaying the oldest of saves  
You're not just holding the fort, mate  
You're holding your fate  
That's why I'll take my control to the grave  
So until the day my face is like my Game Boy  
Old and grey, I will remember that I'm never too old to play  
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