

Ping! Pow! Kaboom!

By CHRIS KEYES

Otter Valley Union High School, Grade 7
 Ping! Pow! Kaboom!
 The famous sounds
 Of the first
 Video games
 It all started
 With Pacman
 And Space Invaders
 Look where
 We are now
 Those simple sounds
 And their games
 Have evolved
 Now we have
 Customized sounds
 And moves for each
 Slight touch to the
 Controller
 And the systems
 Keep getting better
 While the old ones
 Become obsolete
 Look what
 That simple idea
 Of a game on a screen
 Has become

Games

By BRADY DUGAN

Benson Village School, Grade 8
 Video Games are fun to play.
 I like to take my time.
 My character joins the fray.
 I can do it on a dime.
 I like to take my time.
 My car zooms down the road.
 I can do it on a dime.
 I don't punch in a code.
 My car zooms down to the road.
 I get cops chasing me.
 I don't punch in a code.
 I get away scot-free.
 I got cops chasing me.
 I use my Nos.
 I get away scot-free.
 But I ran over my boss.
 So I use my Nos.
 My character joins the fray.
 But I ran over my boss.
 Video games are fun to play.

Grocery Shopping

By TAYLOR AINES

Otter Valley Union High School, Grade 7
 Beep... beep... beep...
 Is the sound that the cash register makes
 On the conveyor belt. You will find steaks
 Vegetables, chips and dairy too
 Boy, I really do not like grocery shopping
 Do you?

Runescape

By HOLLY BUSHEY | Fair Haven Grade School, Grade 7

Well, as a girl, most people wouldn't expect me to be a gamer. But truthfully, I love it, all around!

I especially love a game called Runescape. This game is an online RPG, which stands for Role Playing Game. You create a character and battle monsters, from things like goblins at the lower levels to dragons at the higher levels. You start at level 3 and build your way up to over 120!

This game has "skills" to increase, such as Magic, or "Mage," as some gamers call it. In the gamer world the names of skills usually have abbreviations, such as archery, called "arching," or Wood-cutting,

as "WC," leaving you with things like attack (att), defense (def), and prayer. A main skill is Health, which is a symbol of a heart. If you run out of health, you basically die. Well, to find out more you'd have to either research it or sign up! It's free but you can also buy a membership for the game, allowing many more possibilities.

As a "gamer-girl" I feel a bit awkward at times because I get really into the gaming experience. I also like games like Halo (all of them), Guild Wars, World of Warcraft, Call of Duty and a bunch of others. Overall I think gaming is really fun!

Shopping Fifth Avenue

By OLIVIA HAMM | Brattleboro Area Middle School, Grade 8

Shopping. Just the thought of going shopping makes me happier. I think that the best place I've ever gone shopping was probably Fifth Avenue in New York City. I went on vacation to New York over the summer and we went shopping one day. It was amazing to see all the people and all the stores, the buildings towering above us. Since Vermont doesn't have any big cities to compare to, it was...stunning.

It makes you feel like you're important when you go to Tiffany's and there are people just to push the elevator buttons for you. Inside the store was magical, seeing all the jewelry that was beyond my budget, but so beautiful. Everyone there is so polite and patient. They didn't mind waiting for me as I tried to decide what I was going to spend my hard-earned babysitting money on. I looked through case after jewelry case of gorgeous gems and metals, trying to decide which necklace I wanted. I ended up choosing a small silver heart pendant, which I absolutely loved.

And then there's the madness of Fifth Ave. Abercrombie and Fitch is a good example. When we went, there was a line wrapping around the block. It seemed like whenever we walked past the store there was always a line. You have to wait to even look at the clothes, and there are a million people who are all looking around and other people at the tables and racks piled high with merchandise, trying not to knock anything over. Even though it was five floors, it seemed that there were still people everywhere, walking around the store and waiting in lines for the dressing rooms

and the cashiers.

And the crowds! It seemed like there were people everywhere — walking, shopping, trying to hail a taxi. Just waiting to cross the street was a pain; there were at least 50 people trying to cross and not get hit by cars. We finally gave up waiting for the lights, and just walked with everyone else.

Sometimes it seems much easier to just go to the Holyoke Mall, where there aren't very big crowds, and you don't have to worry about getting hit by a taxi.

Taxis. That was another challenge to shopping Fifth Avenue. There are plenty of taxis around, but it's hard to flag one down. We walked 20 or so blocks, looking for yellow cabs that didn't have people in them or that would stop. It was frustrating that no one would stop for us, and tiring to walk so far. It was quite an experience to go shopping in a big city where there is not always guaranteed transportation.

This was a wonderful way to end my summer, and something that I really enjoyed. I loved having so many different stores to choose from, so many large stores crammed into a small space. I also liked that everything was not enclosed, like in a mall, and you had to walk outside to get from place to place. I got a lot of exercise from walking up and down the streets. Because everything in New York is huge — way bigger than here in Vermont — my legs were very tired by the end of our day. My trip was truly a shopping experience that I will never forget, and I am grateful that I was lucky enough to experience it.



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Shopping

By BRIANNA HEDDING

Otter Valley Union High School, Grade 7
 Shopping with friends is always cool
 No parents around or that stupid rule
 "Don't buy junk. Don't waste your money"
 But shopping with friends is always funny.
 We shop at the mall or sometimes online
 Hollister, Aeropostale are all too fine.
 Sometimes we browse, sometimes we spend
 We shop till we drop or until the day's end.

Shopping my way

By KAELA PEET

Spaulding High School, Grade 9

I guess I would have to say that I do love shopping. Who doesn't? But I hate shopping with my own money. I can never find anything I want because I don't feel like spending my money. I love shopping with other people's money though, getting what I want because it doesn't cost me anything, then regretting buying it because I want the money back so I can get something else.

There are some disadvantages to shopping as well. I think the thing I hate most about shopping is not finding what I want and coming out of the store empty-handed. Say I go to the store with the idea that I want to get a new pair of pants and I try on a whole bunch but I can't find ones that fit me right and they don't have the ones I want. I also hate trying on clothes over and over again. I just wish everything was my size. It takes too much time up. I can't stand finding something I really want and not finding it in my size, or when it looks good on the rack but not when on me.

I also hate shopping with people who take forever in a store, trying on everything four times and asking me what I think about it. I guess I like shopping only when people want to do it my way.

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