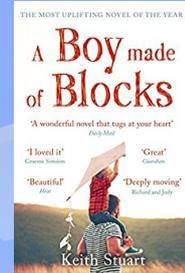
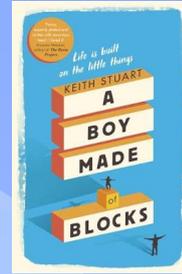


What autism taught me about video games (and vice versa)

Keith Stuart



This is a very serious profession



From the age of 36 months, we knew there was something different about Zac



One thing he really loved was technology



It was partially my fault

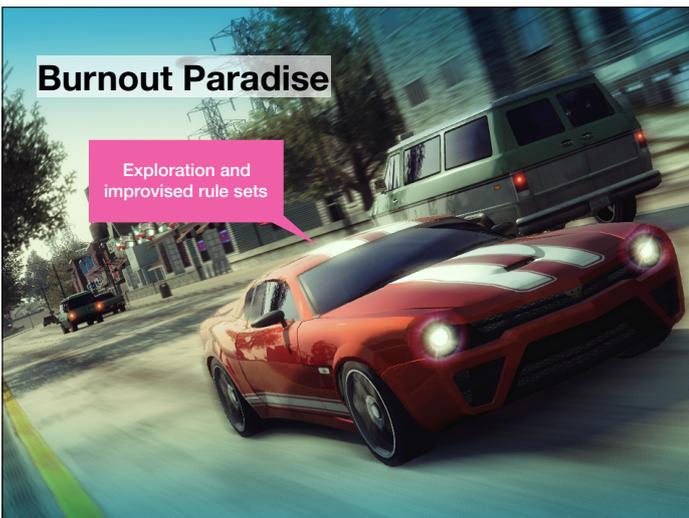


LittleBigPlanet



Burnout Paradise

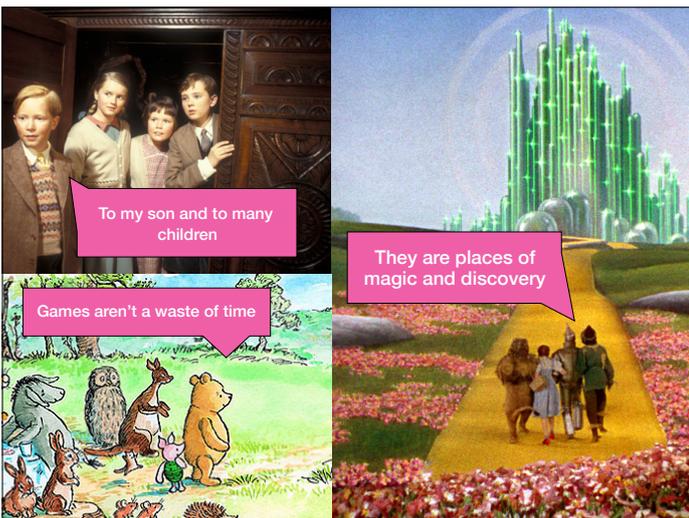
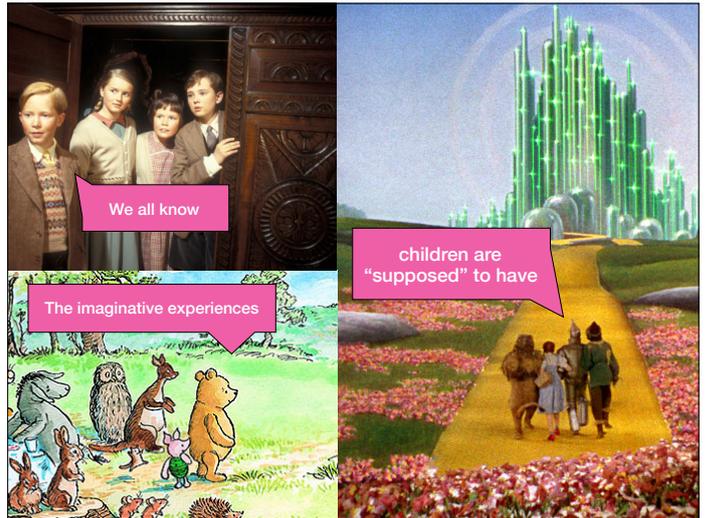
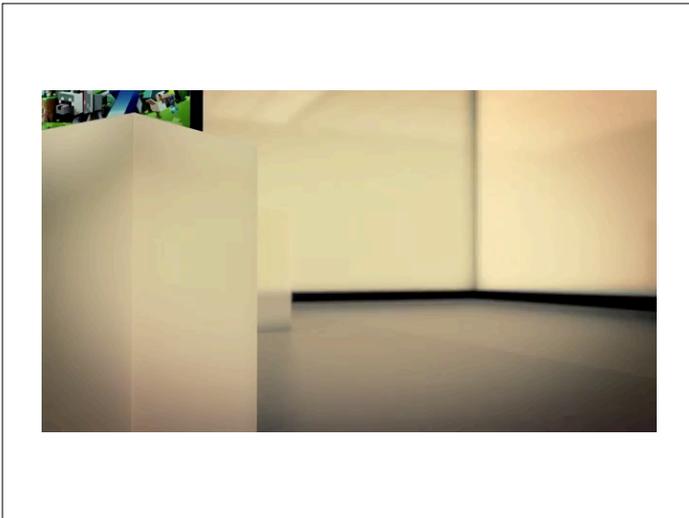
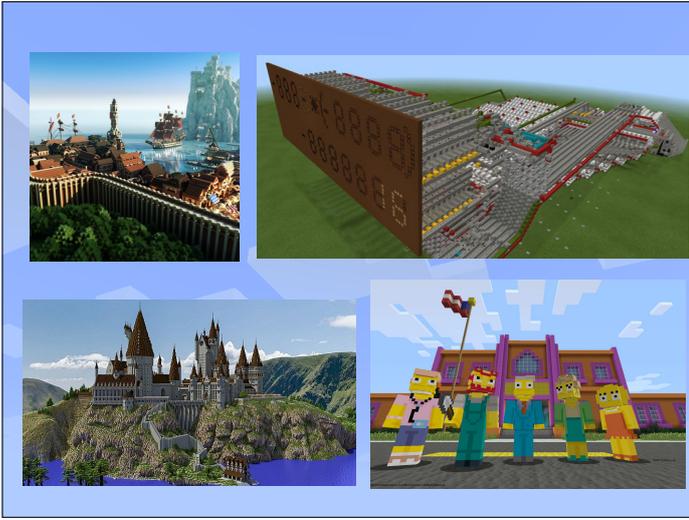
Exploration and improvised rule sets



Minecraft

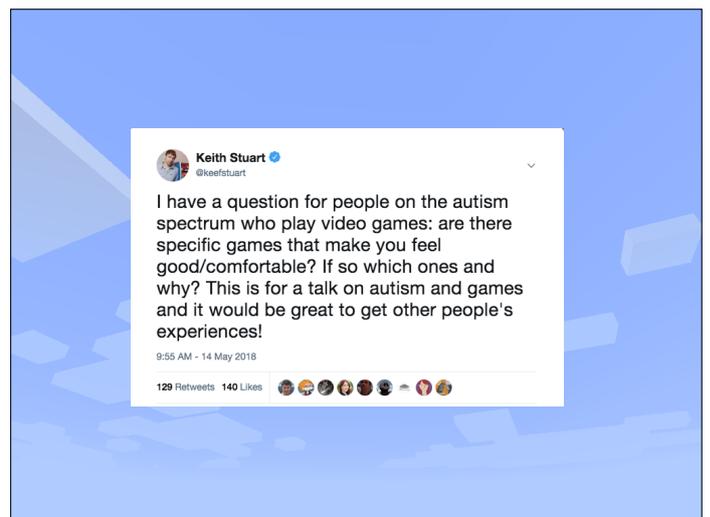
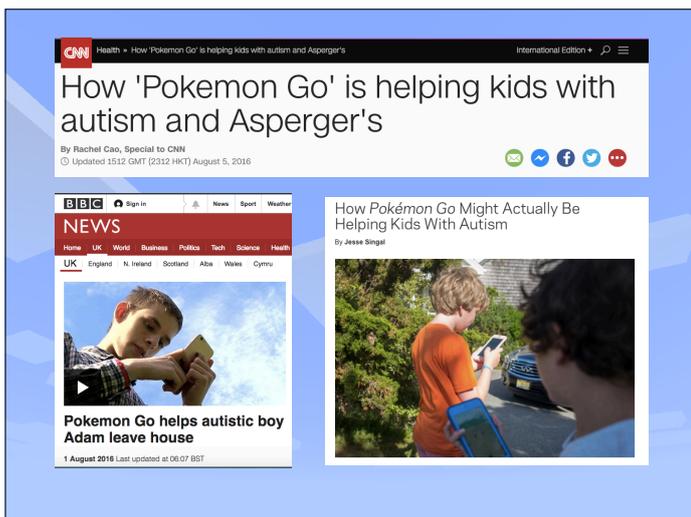
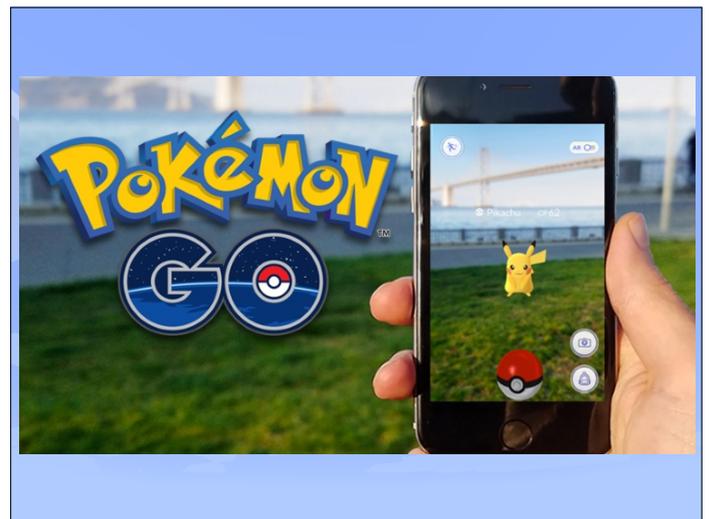
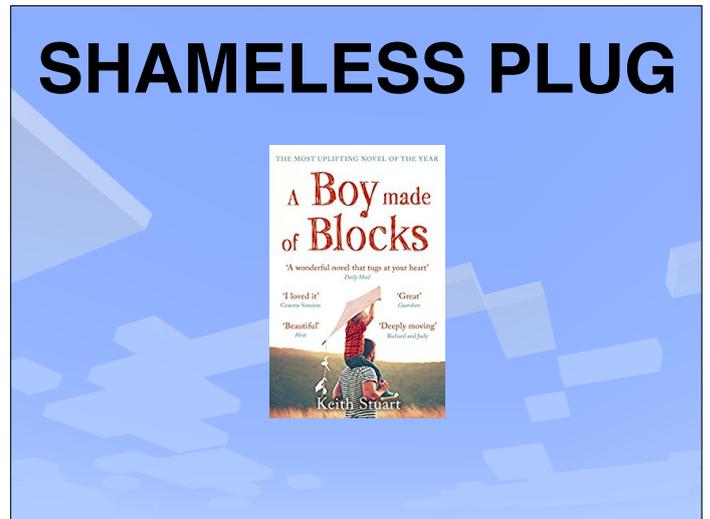
122 million global sales
55 million active players



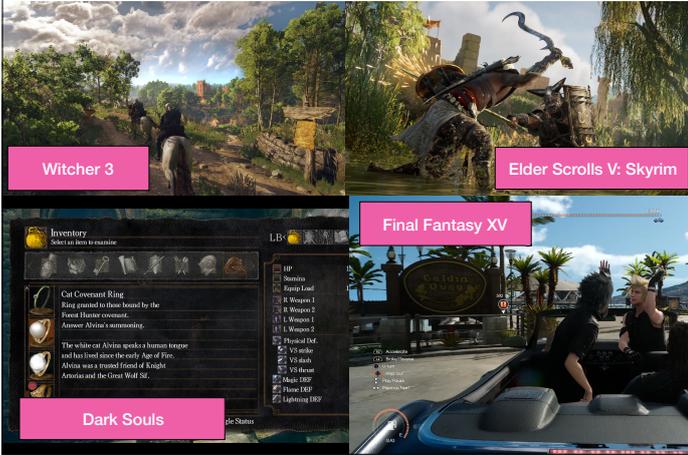


Autism and Minecraft

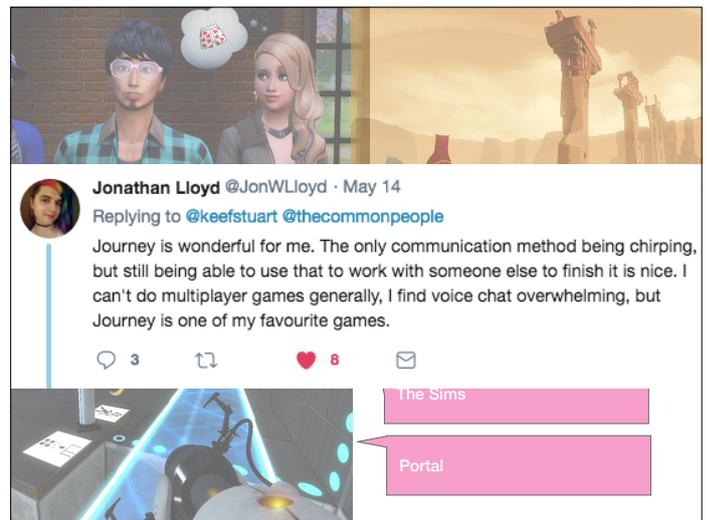
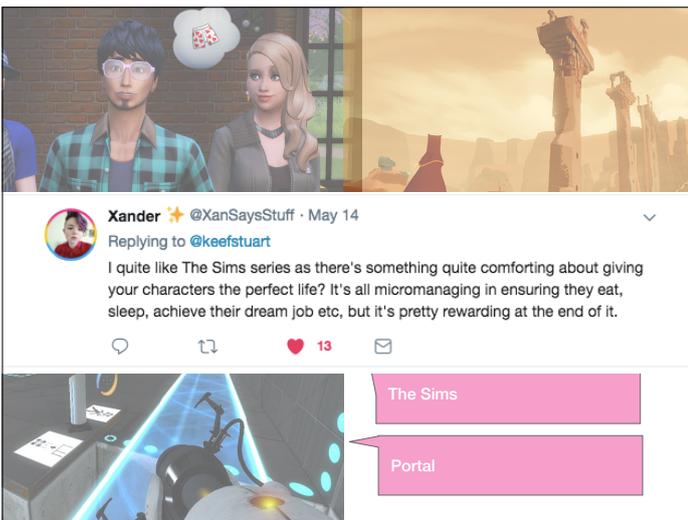
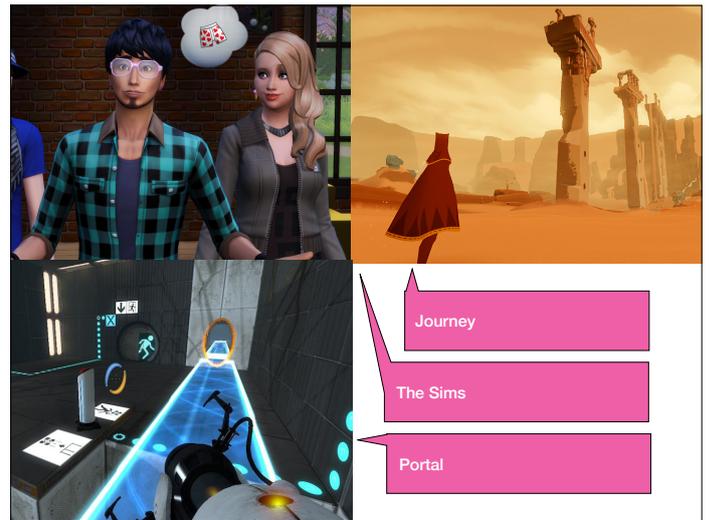
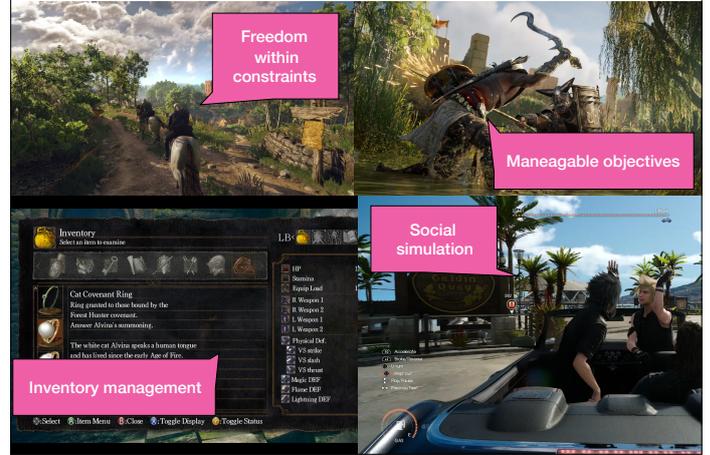
- There are no proscribed missions or objectives – you play how you want. It works with the interests of the autistic player.
- It is a recognisable world, but simplified and unambiguous.
- It has logical mechanics and systems and these never change.
- The ambient atmosphere and quiet piano-led soundtrack are calm and reflective.
- It is social, but does not depend on understanding social cues like eye-contact, body language and personal boundaries.

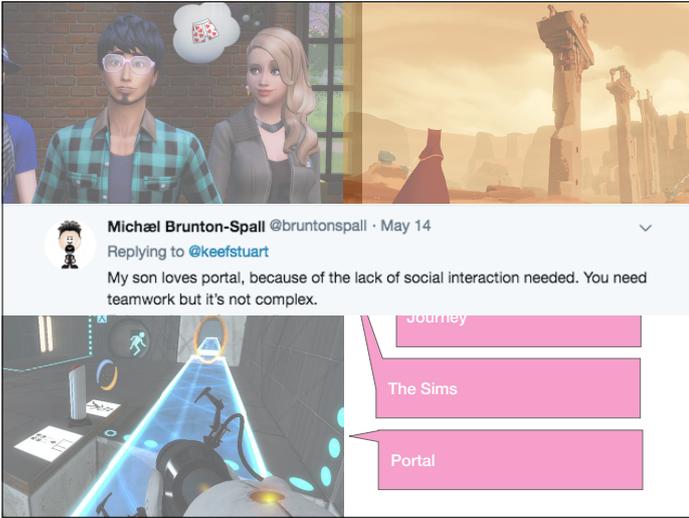


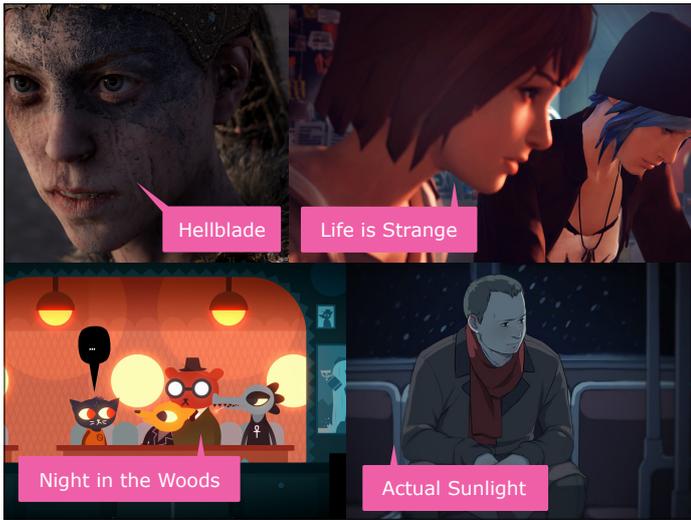
Fantasy role-playing games (RPGs)



The appeal of role-playing adventures







Hellblade

Life is Strange

Night in the Woods

Actual Sunlight

A new generation of independent games is subverting and radically softening established genres



Stardew Valley



Undertale

* (Playfully wrinkling through the leaves fills you with determination.)

The 2017 game Celeste uses the conventions of the platform genre to explore anxiety and panic attacks



The tech and games industries are actively recruiting (and creating support mechanisms for) people with ASD



Microsoft has special recruitment for autistic applicants. There is no formal interview – they spend a week working on coding projects



The nonPareil institute in Dallas, Texas, teaches software and games development to young adults with ASD and functions as a professional games studio

The games industry is waking up to the need for greater diversity of thought, design and action



Pride flags displayed in Marvel's Spider-Man



Apple App Store autism month



Girls Make Games coding clubs



Xbox Adaptive Controller



video games are about freedom

Six games that are fun to share



Forza Horizon series



Sea of Thieves



Fortnite



Rocket League



Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild



Lego Marvel Super Heroes 2



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