

User Study – Session 2

INTERVIEWER: So, for A Perfect Planet, did you find yourself constantly engaged wanting to see what happened next?

PARTICIPANT 1: I found - like it was engaging 'cause there was lots of suspense. I wanted the iguana to get back to the shore. I found 'cause you can see the thing struggle, I felt like I was immersed in the experience.

PARTICIPANT 2: See, I didn't get any of the suspense, there were quite a few squares that didn't have any words on them, which I'm assuming is where the suspense was building with like watching the thing, but I just - I don't know, kind of like skip over and go to the next thing I can read but I did find it interesting. But yeah, I don't think I got as much suspense as you (Participant 1) would've.

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah, 'cause I felt like there was, so even at the start when there was - those birds were like diving into the water just like watching them do it and then like missing just - I remember 1 scene the bird came down and it was going to get a fish and then like a dolphin just took it away from it. So, I felt like that built like immersion into the scene.

INTERVIEWER: OK, and for Nadia Bakes, were there any parts of the narrative where you were confused about what was happening?

PARTICIPANT 2: I wasn't no.

PARTICIPANT 1: No, I mean it's almost like a - well, it was a recipe, right? So, it's pretty much telling you - almost like describing the scene to you in the subtitles. So that was nice. Yeah, I was never confused about what was happening. Half the cooking stuff though - like other than what she was saying she was doing - 'cause it was just like there was like 1 square of like just the Donuts. But then she was talking about like the filling of the donut, but you couldn't really see it 'cause it was inside. And then there was some just black squares where there was no text, but just pictures of the doughnut or like her just looking at you. And I was like, OK, I don't know if this is just a pause in the show, or she's just spending like 2 seconds staring at the camera saying nothing.

INTERVIEWER: That's fair. Okay, do you feel like you learned anything from A Perfect Planet, and can you give an example?

PARTICIPANT 2: Yeah, I didn't know that the water iguanas were the only mammal that like go into the sea for food.

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah, and 'cause their bodies can't handle the cold they have to get back before their muscles seize up and they drown. Then the birds can be in for a while, but they can only hold their breath for a few minutes. Plankton - that's like so much of the ocean atmosphere is due to them - more so than the rainforest.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that you would be able to follow along with the recipe in Nadia Bakes?

PARTICIPANT 2: I don't remember if she gave like actual quantities of what to do? But aside from that, I think so.

PARTICIPANT 1: For me, like she said what she was doing but like – so, you can tell when something is ready. You couldn't tell how much she added she just said this is what's happening now, so if you could connect the dots, then I think I'd be able to do it.

INTERVIEWER: So, more of an issue with the content than the subtitling?

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah, I don't think it was as if she didn't explicitly say obviously I wouldn't be able to access it because it was text. And inside the boxes, you couldn't really see - this is nothing to it, comic, it's just the show in general just how much they showed you like –

PARTICIPANT 2: (To Participant 1) Would you be able to tell how she was closing up like the Donuts or whatever?

PARTICIPANT 1: I feel seeing her in the middle of doing it and then seeing how it looked like at the end I could do that myself but wouldn't know the technique she did it in or didn't know the intricacies of how she folded, for example.

INTERVIEWER: (To Participant 2) And how did you perceive the folding technique?

PARTICIPANT 2: I don't know if I remember very well, but yeah, like maybe she didn't explain very much enough, but there definitely was like closer shots of them showing her do it.

INTERVIEWER: OK. Right, did you feel any particular emotions while watching/reading a perfect planet?

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah, I was immersed. I was on edge for half the stuff like the fish, the seagulls, and the iguanas. I was fascinated by the plankton, I felt like a range of emotions. I was excited and immersed. I was worried, like a whole spectrum of emotions. Intrigued about facts that we were told.

INTERVIEWER: (To Participant 2) How about you?

PARTICIPANT 2: I think I was interested in it, but I don't think I got quite the full range of like fear, worry or like anticipation of what's going to happen. I was, yeah, I was interested, but I don't think I was quite as like involved in what was going to happen.

INTERVIEWER: And did you find watching or reading Nadia Bakes stressful or overwhelming at any point?

PARTICIPANT 2: I didn't.

PARTICIPANT 1: No, I mean if I got stressed or overwhelmed, I could just stop. And then be less overwhelmed and then start again. So, I feel like I had that luxury, but it's probably easier to do that when you're reading something than it is to watch something.

PARTICIPANT 2: I see, I did feel like it was quite fast, but I didn't find it an issue as I read quite fast anyway, so it was fine, but I could see how if someone read a bit slower you'd need to like pause the video, then restart it again, just to kind of catch everything.

INTERVIEWER: OK, so this is moving on from like the comparison between the medias to comparisons between what you were reading and watching individually. So, the comparison between the two formats that you read. So, did you feel more or less engaged with the story in either format.

PARTICIPANT 1: I felt like I was probably more engaged when I was watching the video just because of all the cinematic - I don't know like the ways they can make you feel by doing certain cuts or waiting slightly longer. I felt like all of those like intricacies that you get in like film studies, I kind of missed in the in the graphic novel. But then in the graphic I don't feel like I missed any of the crucial information like I felt everything that I needed to know I did know. But it did require like - just because of the nature of it - I needed a little bit of like, how did this box transition and transition into

this box? But it's not something you really think about it's just something you do. Uh. Yeah, that's how I would feel.

PARTICIPANT 2: Yeah, I think the videos as well probably.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, how easy or difficult was it to follow the narrative in either format?

PARTICIPANT 2: I found it quite easy to follow both. I like that in the graphic novel you can kind of like read through at your own pace, like if you were watching a video, they kind of set the pace for how quickly they're talking or how quickly they go through something. But in the graphic novel you can kind of just do it however you want, so that's quite nice.

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah, I would say it was easy for both of them. You could easily tell the format like what (Participant 2) said with the subtitles. I felt like some points were going a bit too quickly for me. I'm sure for anyone else they will be fine. But I'd get to like mid-sentence and it already changed. But then yeah, in the graphic novel I could just take my time and read and then like look at a picture and then read the thing again and then understand what's happening and then go to the next box and do that all over again. I felt like yeah, both were easy.

INTERVIEWER: And do either of you have any additional comments on either format, just in general? Anything that didn't fit into the other questions that you have on your mind?

PARTICIPANT 1: For the graphic novel. There were a few times when, like Nadia would say something and then the next thing would just be her staring at the camera as if she was saying something, but that text wasn't there and I'm sure she was just smiling at the camera or something, but it kind of like took me out of the experience for a little bit to see if this is OK and I'd come back in so it almost took me out of the immersion. Yeah, I don't know, I'm sure that was just the show and what she was doing at the time. That's what I would say.

PARTICIPANT 2: I think for the comic there's a bit more like connecting the dots in your head you need to do it because - so for the nature one like when the birds are like attacking wherever it was, you just have to kind of figure out what changed between the scenes, which was fine and I like that you could like kind of set your own pace reading it and how fast you go through as well. And the video is kind of easier - like you don't need to connect the dots but you can't set the pace, so that's just the kind of like difference between them.

PARTICIPANT 1: I feel like if I wanted quick information, I'd watch the video. If I had more time and I wanted think about it I would choose the graphic novel.

PARTICIPANT 2: I would do the opposite. If I wanted it quickly I would read it and then if I wanted to just sit and like observe, I'd watch the video.

PARTICIPANT 1: For me, it takes time - I read quite slow and I have to think about and understand what I just read and think about how that relates to the whole thing and then read more. It's like the only time I ever read really is like when in English we did close reading. So the whole thing you're thinking about is having to process the text and that's just going through my head any time I ever read ever. So, any book, all I'm doing is like I'm like thinking: how does this relate back but for me I would just like read, stop, think about it. Think, what does this mean? Go to the next thing, connect the images. How did this transition from that one? Think about what that means in the bigger picture of the information? And then I could even like, write notes if I was using to study, for example, like you know how we had videos to watch if this was for like Research Frontiers. If this is the way I did it and I have notes of the side of the page and stuff, so I felt like this (the graphic novel)

is what I would do if I wanted to spend a good hour or two going through this. If it was in the video I would just do it if I need it done quickly.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you very much for your participation.