**Media That Matters to Me**

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**1. The Wellermen & The Longest Johns. (2021). *One More Pull* [Song]. One More Pull [Single].**

‘One More Pull’ by ‘The Longest Johns’ & ‘The Wellermen’ changed how I view and value my relationships with the people around me. I interpret the chorus as a story of one last epic journey that will inevitably end. But it isn’t sad because throughout all the verses, the character, who is never named, is surrounded by their friends and has many fond memories of the journeys they shared. This is a song that I hold very dearly because it reminds me that one day, my journey will end. Whether it’s life or school or anything else, when it does come to an end, I shouldn’t be sad that it’s ending, but rather I should be happy with all the memories I have made and experiences I have had from it. Having this reminder of finality helps me value the friendships I make, as I know that one day due to whatever circumstance they will end. But I can keep looking forward knowing the impact either they made on me or vice versa. But aside from the meaning of the song, I have fond memories of singing many sea shanties especially this one along with all my friends on late-night car rides. I’m especially fond of this verse.

“Well, we too will go ashore soon  
Get drunk in the clubs and bars  
Then stagger homeward, pockets empty  
Like so many times before”. (One More Pull, 2021)

Though I don’t drink, and neither do my friends, I still connect deeply with this verse, as it tells how the character values the time spent with those around them. I am glad I found this song, as it has taught me many valuable lessons about life.

**2. Iron Gate AB. (2021). *Valheim* [PC]. Coffee Stain Publishing.** [**https://store.steampowered.com/app/892970/Valheim/**](https://store.steampowered.com/app/892970/Valheim/)

Valheim is one of my favorite games of all time. Graphically the game is unique as it has 3d models and pixel art textures, but its lighting engine is stunning. You can walk through a forest and look up and see pillars of light shining through the gaps in the leaves, it is breathtaking. In addition to the unique graphics, the game has incredible music. The music ranges everywhere from calming village music while wandering the world to intense rock music for boss fights, and every one of the songs is incredible in its own merits. You know a game has good music when you can go for months without playing it but still be able to hum the songs without listening to them. And Valheim’s music for me is exactly like that. But none of these are the reason that the game has been so impactful on my life. That honor goes to, the late nights I used to spend with my friends playing the game. Back before I had a job or before I was in school, I recall one week where every day from first daylight to sunset, I would get on the game to play it with one of my friends. I enjoyed every single second of it. The point is, that thinking of this game reminds me of a time when life was simpler. I didn’t have to worry about deadlines for homework and I didn’t have to worry about waking up in time for work. I had no responsibilities, and every time I think of Valheim, I think back to simpler times, and that is why this game means so much to me.

***3. Terraria* [PC]. (2011). Re-Logic.** [**https://store.steampowered.com/app/105600/Terraria/**](https://store.steampowered.com/app/105600/Terraria/)

Terraria is single-handedly the most important game I played during my formative years. Many kids my age were raised on Minecraft (Mojang, 2011), I however was not. I spent all my free time when I was younger playing Terraria, but occasionally some Minecraft. Terraria is another game that is important to me mostly because my memories of the game were when times were simpler for me. However, this game is important to me for another reason. Terraria is the first game I remember playing with my older brother. Due to circumstances, for most of my childhood, he didn’t live in our parents’ house, so I rarely got to see him. But I recall he would occasionally come to visit on Sundays, and he would bring his computers. We would set them up on the dining table and play all sorts of games, mostly Terraria. And I know that if it weren’t for our times playing Terraria back then, we would not be as close as we are today. I look up to my brother more than I do anyone else, so the fact that we bonded over this game makes it very important to me.

**4. Madhouse. (2023-2024). *Frieren: Beyond Journey’s End* [Anime]. Crunchyroll,** [**https://www.crunchyroll.com/series/GG5H5XQX4/frieren-beyond-journeys-end**](https://www.crunchyroll.com/series/GG5H5XQX4/frieren-beyond-journeys-end)

‘Frieren: Beyond Journey’s End’, often referred to as Frieren, is an incredible story that follows a long-lived elf named Frieren and her journey after she and ‘The Heroes Party’ defeat the demon king. Although this may seem like the synopsis for a generic trash fantasy anime, I can assure you that is not so. Where most anime would focus on an overpowered protagonist and needless fan service, Frieren instead spends most of its time developing its world and characters. Now why am I talking about? In the first episode of Frieren, there is a scene where Himmel the Hero dies from old age. Frieren cries, asking herself why she never got to know him better. Her long life has led to her not valuing the time of others. But in that moment, she regrets all the time she wasted. I, like Frieren, have experienced the loss of people important to me. And like Frieren, I always ask myself why I never got to know them better. Whenever I watch or think about Frieren: Beyond Journey’s End, I get reminded to enjoy the time and company I spend with those around me.

*Checked for grammar by Grammarly (2024).*