

“Falling Up” Critiques from Matthew Rogers (Liaison from the KSU Anthropology Department)

1. In general:
 - a. “Hold E to remember” at the beginning of the game and in the 2nd floor hallway is there for only like half a second.
 - b. Trimming at the base of the walls on the first floor, second floor hallway and bathroom.
2. First floor:
 - a. Lobby room:
 - i. Paintings on the walls.
 - ii. Front desk:
 1. Behind it on the wall: Meadowlark Hills logo
 2. Vases of flowers on both ends of the desk
 3. Not totally flat -- receptionist desk instead (i.e. lower on the side of the employee and higher on the side of the visitor.
 4. Computer monitor facing the wall
 5. Maybe lower/different lighting behind the front desk to differentiate it from the rest of the lobby.
 - iii. Furniture:
 1. Coffee table (with vase) in between the two couches (which should be closer together)
 2. To the right of the starting position, 2 armchairs facing each other at an angle (with an end table between them)
 - b. Other things that could be in the game room:
 - i. Art on the walls
 - ii. 4 chairs around each table
 - iii. Dominoes on a table
 - iv. The mail slots being a solid brown, i.e. less pixelated rainbow-y
 - v. The “outside” being more than just a flat picture, it could have depth/layers.
 - vi. On wall opposite of mailbox: coffee machine and cups. Television hung on the wall. Electronic piano.
 - vii. Bulletin board with event flyers
 - c. Pool table room
 - i. Pool cues on the wall
 - d. “Alive inside poster”.. Less horizontally stretched?
 - e. Prairie Star Restaurant
 - i. More tables, chairs around them
 - ii. Vase centerpieces
3. Second floor:
 - a. Hallway:

- i. The image of the inside of the room (on the door) is very horizontally-condensed. It would be better either stretched out, not there at all (solid door), or with multiple layers so that it give the illusion of perspective.
- b. Main apartment:
 - i. Some of the audio/video are misaligned..
 - 1. The video footage of the carousel and the audio of the carousel aren't aligned at the same distance from the object.. E.g. if you're too far away you'd only hear the audio and not see the corresponding video.
 - 2. The video footage of packing up the boxes and leaving the farm should go with the audio about leaving to go to Korea. As is, if you look at the picture of the golden gate bridge, you get the audio of him talking about the bridge and the video of the farm (it should just be audio). Even while looking at the hat on the table, this still happens.
 - 3. That same video footage of packing up the boxes is in the bathroom too when it shouldn't be. Also, the audio in the bathroom about his mother washing off the ants should only work when pressing e around the sink, but it works in the whole bathroom.
- c. Bedroom:
 - i. Misaligned audio/video
 - 1. There's that same video footage of the boxes/leaving the farm while looking at Della's picture/the stereo in the bedroom.
 - ii. Letter to Floyd -- can't read it. I'm not sure what you are able to do about this, but here are some alternatives I can think of:
 - 1. Have the POV of the user further off the ground or the bed closer to the ground so that the user can get to a position where he/she can look down at the note and read it (the reason why you can't read it already is because there's not a good angle).
 - 2. Have the letter rest at an angle (i.e. not flat on the bed), so the user can read it. I think this could easily be accomplished by putting the letter on a pillow on the bed..
 - 3. Harder: Add a way to pick up the letter so you can read it (similar to the way they do it in "Gone Home"). This would require an extra button and then a notification for the user to press that button when approaching the letter..
 - iii. CD
 - 1. Dr. Wesch and his team didn't get to this part, but the user is supposed to be able to put the CD into the stereo in

order to play their song. Right now it isn't clear which button the user would use to do this. It seems like in this situation (and any other situation when we'd consider adding another button in order to perform a different function, e.g. picking up the CD), it would be easiest to either: 1) just use the same button (pressing e) or 2) have the CD automatically be picked up upon getting close enough to it (similar to what happened when getting the room key from the bathroom medicine cabinet).

- iv. Add ending screen
 - 1. As the music finishes playing, the screen can fade into black.

This is just a basic list of the storyline for my own records.

- 4. First floor/ Sequence:
 - a. Setting:
 - i. Celebrate Della Sign
 - ii. Alive inside poster
 - b. Tree Puzzle:
 - i. Video and audio: They used to spend time by a tree, "that's when I knew we loved each other".
 - c. Beginner Japanese book
 - i. Video: Holding Della's hand at the table (no audio)
 - d. Deck of cards
 - i. Video: Guys playing dominoes, ladies playing number tiles (no audio)
 - e. Pool table
 - i. Video: Seeing himself make a shot in pool(no audio)
- 5. Apartment story
 - a. Setting:
 - i. Refrigerator
 - 1. Della chemotherapy prescription.
 - 2. Misc: Lunch downstairs with jack on friday
 - ii. Picture of them together
 - iii. Note: Royals on at 6
 - iv. Her hat
 - v. Notes: Take 1 white pill before bed, take 2 green pills at 9 am.
 - b. Army helmet

- i. Audio: When he left to Korea to fly the plane, he didn't know what he thought about religion but he knew that if he came through it then he would focus on the truth, whatever that is..
 - ii. Video: Packing up boxes, leaving the farm.
- c. Picture of Golden Gate Bridge
 - i. Audio: Got home, the fog coming in from the golden gate bridge as he went home to his bride and his family is a scene he will never forget.
- d. Tractor picture:
 - i. Audio: The farm grew less and less profitable, they had to sell it. That was the hardest time of his life, he had let her down.
- e. Carousel
 - i. Video of carousel and Audio: "That was the hardest part, she had loved those horses, I had let her down"
- f. Bathroom sink:
 - i. Audio: He remembers his mother washing him with water because he had been watching the ants and they had started to bite him..
- g. Medicine cabinet:
 - i. Audio: "i'm sorry for being a bitch to you when the memory loss started. I thought you were just being lazy, I'm sorry."
 - ii. Misc: Rx for chemotherapy
 - iii. Room key received
- 6. Bedroom story
 - a. Same "Celebrate Della" poster.. With text unblurred.
 - b. Picture of the same tree hanging on the wall
 - c. Box of Della's possessions:
 - i. Picture of the two of them
 - ii. Picture of her
 - iii. Birth certificate
 - d. Letter to Floyd
 - e. I Love You CD