**Yellowhead Requirements Document**

Yellowhead is an OpenWorld RPG, with a player driven narrative, and multiple story paths.

**Project structure**

The game will be built by me, in the Unity Game Engine. Using Visual Studio Code for programming, and Aseprite for pixel art, and animation.

**Naming Convention**

* Use the YHG\_ prefix for all file names.
* Use Camel Casing for all names

Get the player inputs first, and set states

All class logic should depend on public states, preferably bools. This should help keep the classes completely modular.

**Game Systems**

**General Gameplay**

Ideally Yellowhead will take around 5-7 hours to play all the way through. Aim for at least 5, and then lengthen from there, as comes naturally. The game will utilize a type of finality gameplay. Once a decision, or action has taken place, there will be no way of undoing it, short of erasing the entire save file. Gameplay loops will exist, but there will be key moments that cannot be undone. The game will not try to force the player into experiencing a certain set experience. Subverting expectations is extremely important for the overall enjoyability of the game. Try to think about what the player will expect and then do something different.

For maximum immersion

* No cutscenes.
* No going back in time to fix mistakes.
* Multiple story paths.
* One point of view.
* No crafting, or shopping
* Blank slate player character

**Emotion**

Yellowhead will attempt to generate emotion by letting the player witness strong characters and affect their lives, either positively or negatively. I want to give the player an insight into each character, and let them get to know their unique personalities, and childhoods, before they kill them or ruin their hopes and dreams. Music, and visuals will also play a crucial role in nailing the emotion. I am going for a bittersweet feel. The entire games success hinges on landing the emotional feel correctly.

**Passage of Time**

If the player dies, then time rolls back to when they last saved. (This is because the player is the mystical Lord of Time, but no one knows this until the end of certain storylines) If another person dies, then that is simply the end of them. Player can only die during boss fights. During the long stay at the academy, the player can come and go as they please. Moving back in time to fix mistakes is impossible, and once a character has died, there is no way to undo it.

**Combat System**

**I** want boss fights with repeatability. I really like the boss fights from Cuphead, and Undertale. Although, I like Undertale a lot more. I want the player to feel like they are surviving, rather than fighting. Each boss fight should be unique and contain its own specific mechanics. I am unsure about combat outside of boss fights. I tend to not like the grinding required in other games, and I want the gameplay to fluid and natural.

/\*SHOULD I HAVE A FIGHT WINDOW LIKE UNDERTALE?? OR DO SOMETHING A BIT MORE MY OWN STYLE? I AM GOING TO TEST OUT A FEW DIFFERENT KINDS OF FIGHTS, AND SEE HOW PEOPLE REACT TO THEM\*/

**Dialogue System**

A simple Dialogue system that is not distracting is particularly important for the player to feel Immersed in the world. NPC’s need to feel very real. I think overhead text boxes will work nicely. Character portraits would be a lot of work, but they would also add a lot of realism to each character. They would need to be pulled off smoothly to work though and are not the most important thing to be worried about. To make a character start talking, the player will just press enter on them, and they will respond as though you asked them a question. Every voice line will be handwritten by me.

**Characters**

**You (Age Unknown, No Tint)**

You will play as a faceless, genderless, nameless character, who never speaks a word. The point of this is for the player to easily project themselves, and their words onto the character, as they affect the word around them. You can become better friends with any character, simply by spending more time with them, and speaking to them. Who you befriend makes a massive difference to how the story will progress. You are the mystical Lord of Time, this is pointed out to you, by the fact, that time rolls back when you die, Ralagor lines, and it is a never-ending day when you are around. This fact will not be revealed on all paths. The Lord of Time is destined to destroy Ralagor and rescue the world from his evil grip. Destroying him will be the final evil you have to commit, to finish the game.

**Rosie (9, Red)**

Rosie is an orphan who has the magical power to animate objects. Her only friend growing up was Theodore. She has red hair and eyes. Still quite young, Rosie has yet to discover the full range of her powers. She gets turned in to the Academy halfway the first semester. Rosie is very sensitive and relies on others. She is a very good source of tragedy for me. Rosie is very innocent, sassy, and gullible. If befriended, she will follow you around everywhere. She looks up to all the older characters.

**Theodore (Teddy) (8)**

Theodore is Rosie’s childhood stuffed bear. He was animated by Rosie. (Neither of them knows about this) He always wanted to be a “real bear” and after a falling out with Rosie, he left on a mission to become. Theodore turns up later as an evil force, working as the Reaper for Ralagor. A Bargest. Theodore is very shy, and reserved, but is secretly a real menace. When he is a “real bear” He is very thin and scraggly. Ralagor affectionately refers to him as Teddy. A savage sense of humor. A terrible alcoholic, and his friend Miranda tries to emulate.

**Miranda (20, No Tint)**

Miranda is friends with Theodore and is also a very heavy drinker (always non-alcoholic though). Hangs with a tough crowd and is very rude to everyone. Love interest for Newt, on some Paths. Miranda is a warrior for the monk tribe. Very tough and protective of people she loves. Wears a black leather jacket. Can be a boss fight on paths were Teddy turns evil. Talks trash about everyone but is secretly very naïve. A massive people pleaser, she tries to fit in everywhere she goes, adopting other people’s mannerisms, and phrases.

**Brother Thomas (50, No Tint)**

A minor character. The leader of the Monks, an alcoholic who smokes weed incessantly, wears his brown robe open, and is the spiritual leader of the monks. Keeps himself high most of the time. Thomas has never had a girlfriend and talks quite openly about the old days. If you get into a conversation with him, he will overshare about his tragic life. Born into riches, and lived the high life, until his whole family starved, when he spent all their money. He then joined a gang, who turned out to be undercover monk missionaries. By that point, he was trapped, and was about to run away from the monks when he was promoted to leader.

**Atlas (18, Black)**

Atlas has black hair and eyes. He can slow down his perception of time. A loner, Atlas grew up in a school where he was trained to be the perfect man to lead the Yellowheads. His powers a rude copy after the Lord of Time himself. He killed his way out of the compound at the age of 9, and then tried his best to keep a low profile ever since. He met Chloe a couple years ago but has kept his secret even from her. Atlas has a death path, where he is killed by Theodore, and become a servant of Ralagor. At the academy, people are initially suspicious of him, because black hair and eyes is extremely rare. There are rumors that he might be the yellowhead in disguise. Atlas keeps to himself and is relatively hard to befriend.

**Chloe (18, White)**

Chloe was created by the government as well, to try to bring Atlas back in. But during their time together, she has fallen in love with him. According to the governments plan, Atlas and Chloe are meant to rule the kingdom together, under the watchful eye of king magnificent. Chloe is very quiet and shy, because of her troubled past. Her time at the creation facility was even more traumatic than Atlas’ was. Likes to laugh but doesn’t put herself out there. She can read minds but doesn’t want people to know about it.

**Kevin Colins (19, Green)**

Kevin is Newts best friend. He has a very corny sense of humor and is half loved and loathed by everyone. He is very trusting, loyal, and overall, a great friend. “The name’s Kevin, Kevin Colin” Kevin’s storyline is him trying to escape the evil grasps of his father, Old Mr. Colin. Kevin used to love Old Colin, but he is now a completely changed man. Loyal, and dedicated, a very hard worker. Colin has a German Shepherd named Jeffrey, and a squirrel, who is also named Jeffery (after his brother (who never existed), who died in a non-disclosed way. Hint that he may have been eaten/ or left in the spanking machine). Jeffery and Jeffery are a wicked pair when it comes to fighting, and combined with Kevin and Newt, they make a formidable force. Attention seeking, and puts himself out there in social situations. Kevin ran away from home, and met Newt in the city.

**Newt (19, Orange)**

Newt is Crawlins best friend. He is the more pragmatic and athletic of the two. He is very sensible. The two friends get in a lot of trouble during their stay at the academy. Newt is good at nearly everything he tries, except for social interaction. Depending on the path the player takes, Kevin and Newt will accept them into their group. On some paths, a deep Rivalry with Atlas will occur. Secretly very caring and sensitive. He failed to defend his family when they were attacked and feels guilty for surviving. He knows that the government only came because they were harboring an illegal tinted. He carries around the red bat he had as a kid, as a reminder of his guilt. Newt and Atlas are both very talented warriors, and in some paths, they might fight. He has trained for years to become stronger, so that nothing else like that can ever happen again.

**Ralagor (150,000)**

The antagonist of the entire game, Ralagor is an evil god, living in the frail body of the king magnificent son. He needs to be an extremely likable character. He is very open with the main characters about who he truly is and is very proud of how much of a hold he has over the king. Even though his power is greatly weakened by the body he lives in, Ralagor is wickedly intelligent, and retains some of his supernatural power. Ralagor is very selfish, and secretly insecure. He covers this up with an I.D.G.A.F personality, pretending not to care. Ralagor pretends to be sick when he is acting as the kings’ son, but he drops this the moment the king leaves the room. At the end of the day, Ralagor just wants to save humanity from itself, and he thinks the only way to do this is to take away free will, and to rule humans himself.

**King Magnificent (60)**

King Magnificent is the king of the land. He is a massive pushover, and the kingdom is pretty much ruled by his son, and chief advisor. Magnificent is anything BUT magnificent. But it is against the law (punishable by death) to say so. He is very sickly, like his son pretends to be. Not a bad person, and easily befriended, but not cut out for a leadership position. He must be held accountable for the decisions he made, even if they weren’t his ideas. King Magnificent created the academy to find all tinted, rule out the weak of spirit, and then turn the rest into an army of yellowheads. His initial test run, with the first batch of yellowheads went very well, so he decided an army would make him invincible.

**Old Mr. Colin (50)**

Kevin’s dad. He is very vulgar and shares his son’s cory sense of humor (although he prefers to ridicule). Colins is the definition of a menace. Aldo Colin. Evil to the core, Old Colin only ever looks out for himself, and always mistreated his son. A boss fight on some paths.

**Brink (Dark Academy Path) (200)**

The most powerful sprit warrior, and is very jealous of Atlas, because he is Ralagors new favorite.

**Boss Fights**

Still not sure how I am going to implement boss fights for this game. I want to progress the storyline during all the boss fights.

**Ralagor Human Form**

Not sure about this one yet.

**Ralagor Spirit Form**

I want this to be one of the hardest boss fights ever made. Lots of projectiles, and a lot of strategy as well. The player must rewind time repeatedly to different points to defeat him. Make sure to use some beefed-up versions of his human form attacks. Ralagor will take control of the laptop on several occasions. This is when the player will be officially revealed as the Lord of Time. Lots of 4th wall breaks will be included in the fight.

**Old Mr. Colin**

Some belt attacks perhaps. Middle fingers. Waking you up in the middle of the night.

**Teddy (Bargest)**

A very difficult boss 2/3 of the way through the game. Only on paths where he turns evil. If you get hit, you bleed out, relative to how much damage was dealt. Show the relationship between Teddy and Rosie. If Atlas is killed, he will go to the dark academy.

**Yellowhead**

First difficult boss in the game, you must fight them before they kill all your friends. Knife hand attack, takes up half the screen. General shapeshifting attacks.

**Places**

**Prison Town**

Where criminals are sent instead of jail. A lawless town where, once sentenced, no one can ever leave. Terrorized by a Bargest, life in the town is an eventual death sentence.

**Carnival**

Carnival beast would make a good theme. A place of subsidized entertainment, infested with evil clowns, and a Carnival Beast. Found about 1/3 of the way through the game. This is where you will find Teddy and learn about him and Rosie. Maybe allude to Teddy being a beast, and then surprise them with learning that he is a stuffed bear.

**Capitol City**

The city surrounding the palace. Probably some steampunk inspirations for the architecture.

**Academy**

Found near the very beginning of the game. A place where the tinted are sent to be retrained into people. The longer you stay here, the more secrets there are to uncover. You can stay as long as it takes you to escape.

**Atlas’s Childhood Home**

The place that Atlas grew up, and where his family was murdered. A very important place for Atlas’ character arch.

**Orphanage**

Where Rosie and Theodore grew up. A bleak, but with hints of joy and nostalgia built in. Extra washed out colors might help.

**Palace**

Where King Magnificent, and Ralagor live. Palace should be a mix of American Government buildings, and Medieval Castles. Lots of pillars, and stonework.

**Dark Academy (Dark Academy Path)**

This is where Ralagor trains his servants. Only found on the Dark Academy Path.

**Tints**

**White (Rare)**

People that are tinted white, can read minds

**Black (Extremely Rare)**

People tinted black can slow down their own, and other people’s perception of time. And can sometimes pass as having brown hair.

**Red (Rare)**

People that are tinted red can move objects with their minds. (Rosie is an exception)

**Orange (Less Common)**

People tinted orange are very strong, and athletic, and have a connection with fire. Hates the cold.

**Yellow (Extremely Rare)**

Yellowheads can morph and change their bodies. The right hand of the government.

**Blue (Common)**

People tinted blue can breathe under water and love the cold.

**Purple (Less Common)**

People tinted purple are very intelligent and can deceive easily.

**Green (Common)**

People tinted green can absorb life from plants and cannot feel pain.

**Player Paths**

**Evil Paths**

**Yellowhead**

You allow yourself to be turned into a Yellowhead, and gain a massive amount of power.

**Traitor**

In the academy, the government will offer you a position of power if you abandon your friends to death, and join forces with them.

**Narrative**

POTENTIAL GAME PURPOSES / PLAYER MOTIVATION

* The Lord of Time is destined to battle Ralagor for the fate of the world.

Player starts at the bus stop? Gets picked up, and goes to the academy. At the academy, they will meet Atlas, and Chloe. Newt, and Rosie are other main characters at the Academy. I need more basic characters to fill out the academy.

School Bus? Where does the player start? There needs to be some sort of opening to get the player used to the controls, and to the concept of finality. Maybe a dead pet? Each character and background need to be introduced at some point. The question is, does the player simply observe, or do they get to play as the other characters? I need to be sure not to give ANY of the characters plot armor, the player should have to deal with the full brutality of destroying them. (Or saving them, but let’s be real here ;) ) During the entire course of the game, the player will be slowly learning that they are actually the Lord of Time, reincarnated into a new body.

**Visuals**

Pixel Art

With Low saturation on the colors, the game should feel dreamy, and wishy washy.

**Expectations to be Subverted**

* The monks are all alcoholics
* Atlas turns out to be good although he is expected to be the Yellowhead
* Massive Plot Twist at the end, when it turns out that the player is the god of time.
* A carnival “beast” is alluded too, but turns out to be teddy.