

Embodied Play & OMORI Participatory Care in

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Focus Scope

How the surreal RPG Omori uses gameplay, community interaction, and data-driven analysis to:

1. Confront trauma, dreams, and self-discovery
2. Foster online spaces of empathy and mutual support
3. Demonstrate video games' capacity for collective storytelling and healing

Methods:

1. Close reading of in-game symbolism
2. NLP on r/OMORI posts
3. Interactive data visualization

Digital lens Humanities

Why Digital
Humanities?

Bridges textual analysis,
computational methods,
and cultural critique

Treats games as
artefacts of meaning
production, not just
entertainment

Embodied gameplay
perspective

Player input \approx bodily
extension into the
gameworld

Emotional stakes
heightened through
interactivity and feedback
loops





Core narrative themes

Trauma & memory

1. Fragmented dream sequences mirror suppressed memories
2. Combat encounters externalize internal conflict



Dreams & surrealism

1. Shifting aesthetics (Headspace vs. Real World) cue psychological states

Self-discovery & vulnerability

1. Multiple endings depend on players' willingness to "face the truth"
2. Encourages reflection on personal coping strategies

Community-driven inquiry

Data source

Posts + comments
from subreddit
r/OMORI
(2020-2024)

NLP pipeline

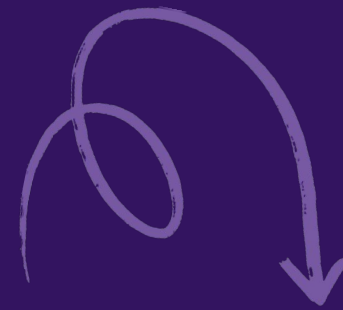
1. Text cleaning & lemmatization
2. Sentiment & emotion classification (NRC lexicon)
3. Topic modeling (BERTopic) to surface discussion clusters

Research questions

1. How often do players articulate empathy, healing, or resilience?
2. Which narrative moments trigger peak community engagement?



High-level discourse patterns



“Facing the Truth”: reflections
triggered after the game’s
pivotal reveal

“Comfort & Advice”: users
sharing coping strategies and
mental-health resources

“Creative Expression”: fan
art, music, and fiction as
outlets for processing themes

1. Posts often juxtapose
sadness with reassurance
2. Supportive comment chains
emerge around first-time
players discussing difficult
moments

Dat Visualization



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Thank you
for your
attention!

