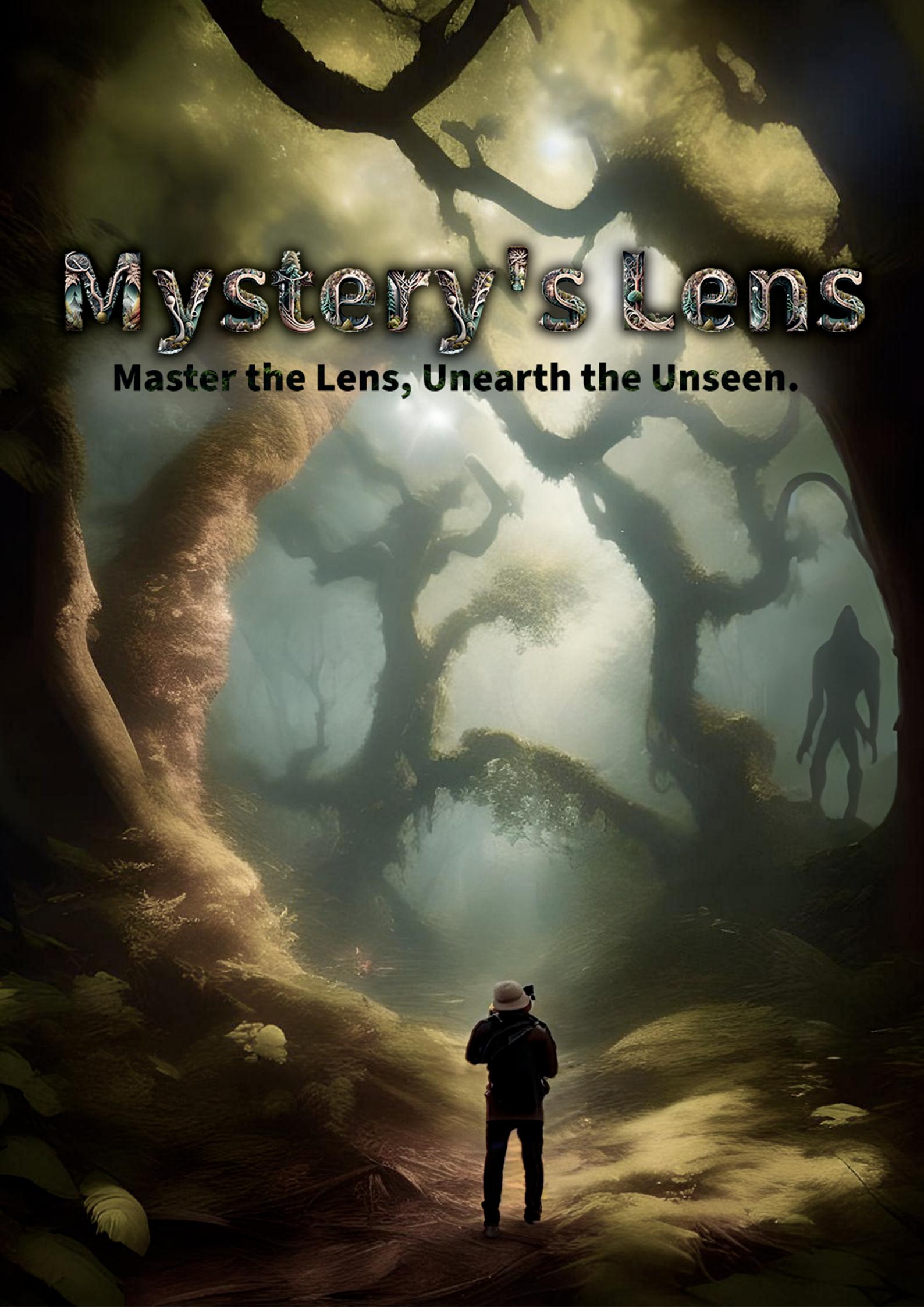


# Mystery's Lens

**Master the Lens, Unearth the Unseen.**





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MASTER DEGREE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE  
Applied Game Design Course

**Mystery's Lens**  
*"Master the Lens, Unheart the Unseen"*

**Game Design Document**

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## Abstract

Mystery's Lens is a captivating 2D platformer set in a fantastical forest teeming with supernatural beings. Players assume the role of a skilled photographer on a quest to uncover the truth behind a legendary monster. To reach the monster's lair at the heart of the forest, the protagonist must overcome various obstacles, including hostile animals, mischievous creatures, and challenging platforms. The primary objective is to capture the elusive monster on camera and provide undeniable evidence of its existence.

As players progress through the enchanting forest, they will encounter unique challenges in each level, with diverse environments ranging from dark and mysterious woods to magical streams inhabited by guardian spirits. Armed with a magical camera, the protagonist possesses special abilities to reveal hidden objects and unveil the true form of the supernatural entities. These abilities are crucial for solving puzzles, navigating obstacles, and advancing through the game.

In addition to overcoming the physical challenges of the forest, players must also demonstrate their knowledge of photography through themed quizzes. By correctly answering questions related to photography composition and techniques, players can unlock rewards such as extra lives or other bonuses, enhancing their chances of success in the game.

Immerse yourself in the captivating story of Mystery's Lens as you explore the depths of a mystical forest, encounter intriguing characters, and uncover the secrets of the legendary monster. Are you ready to embark on this educational and thrilling adventure?

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Introduction

The idea regards a fascinating video game. Mystery's Lens is a **2D platformer** for PC. The protagonist is a photographer exploring a fantasy forest filled with supernatural beings looking for a legendary creature.

The **slogan** of this game is: "*Master the Lens, Unheart the Unseen*".

## 1.2 Description

Mystery's Lens place a skilled photographer on a quest to uncover the truth behind a legendary monster. To reach the monster's lair at the heart of the forest, the protagonist must overcome various obstacles. The primary objective is to capture the elusive monster on camera and provide undeniable evidence of its existence.

As players progress through the enchanting forest, they will encounter unique challenges in each level, they must also demonstrate their knowledge of photography through themed quizzes. By correctly answering questions related to photography, players can unlock rewards.

## 1.3 Key Features

### 1.3.1 Environment and Level Design

The game is set in an enchanted forest with a variety of unique environments, such as a dark forest and an shimmering pond. The levels have different designs and come with various obstacles and enemies.

### 1.3.2 Compelling New Story and Character

Mystery's Lens will feature a brand new story set in the category of serious and fantasy games with new characters, quizzes and monsters. For the first time the storyline revolves around the trip of a photographer in a fantasy forest, inspired by the legend of the monster.

### 1.3.3 Graphics

With the graphics about different scenes in the forest, Mystery's Lens will immerse players into the game, creating natural and fantasy characters and environments.

#### **1.3.4 Powers and Abilities**

The protagonist of the game has some special abilities related to photography. For example, he can collect a magical camera that allows him to reveal hidden objects or reveal the true form of supernatural beings. These skills can be used to solve puzzles or overcome obstacles.

#### **1.3.5 Enemies and obstacles**

Some hostile animals and little monsters are hidden in the forest. They are enemies trying to kill the photographer. The protagonist has to defeat or escape from them, while also trying to overcome obstacles, like to cross a river or skip some poisonous plants.

#### **1.3.6 Photographs as game objectives**

The main challenge of the game is to take pictures of a supernatural being to collect evidence of its existence. It is not so easy to catch the shot of the monster, the shot require a unique approach in order to make a good photograph.

### **1.4 Photography quizzes**

The **educational aspect** of the game is implemented through photography themed quizzes. After overcoming certain obstacles or reaching certain points in the game, the player is challenged with questions about photography composition and shooting techniques. Correct answers are rewarded with extra lives or other bonuses.

### **1.5 Genre**

Mystery's Lenses is a **2D platformer** game with elements of **fantasy adventure** and **puzzle-solving**. It combines exploration and platforming mechanics as the player navigates through the forest, overcoming obstacles and challenges. Additionally, the inclusion of quizzes about photography adds an educational aspect to the gameplay experience, making it a sort of **serious game**.

### **1.6 Platform**

The targeted platform is the PC with a sure possibility of Consoles port depending on the games success.

## 1.7 Concept Art

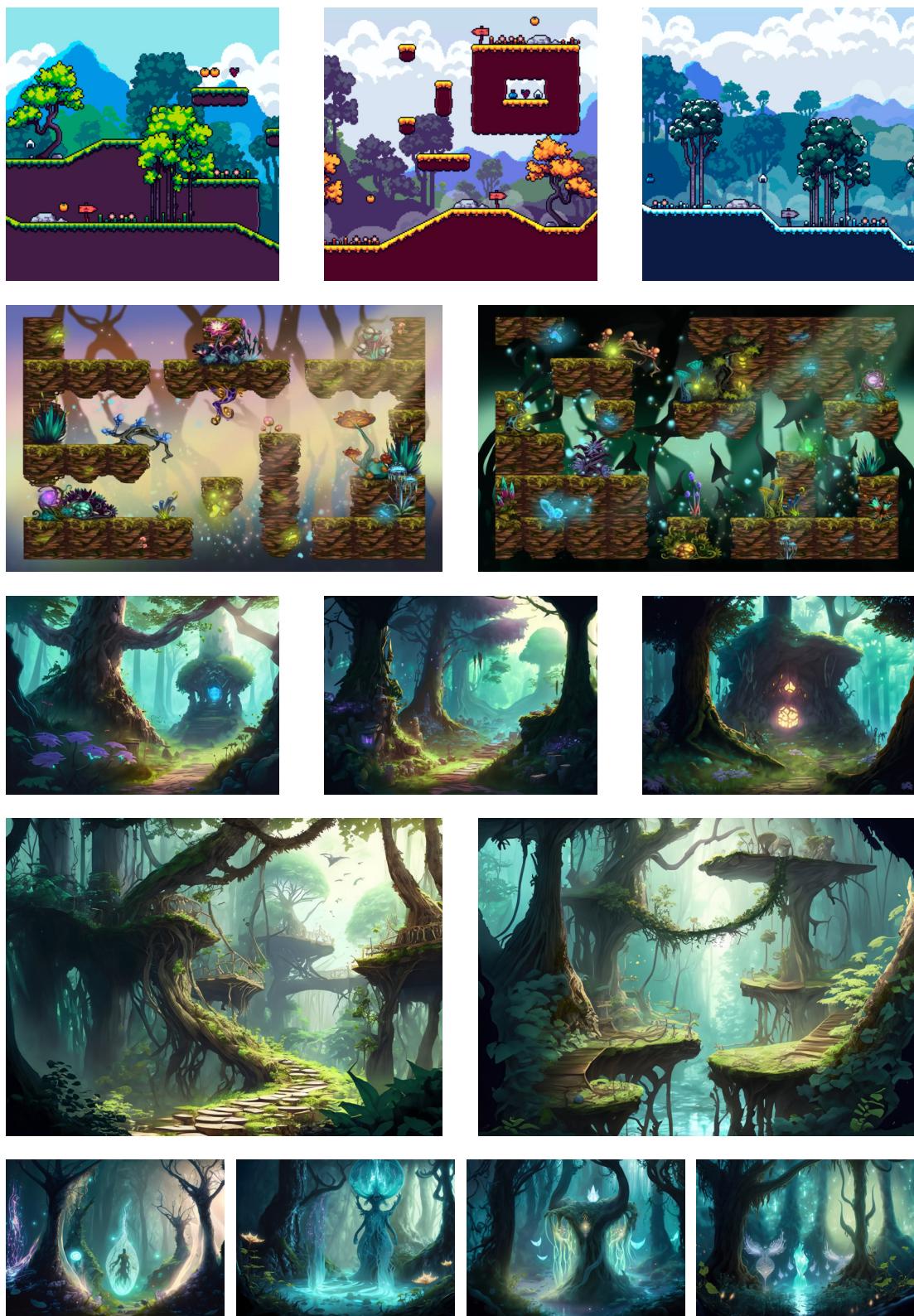


Figure 1.1: Concept Art

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## 2. Story

The story follows the intrepid photographer ventured into the craziest experiences, in search of the breathtaking shots. This was the time of an even more dangerous mission than the previous ones, in search of a dark mystery. The protagonist goes deeper and deeper into the mystical forest. Legends spoke of a mysterious being who lived there, but no man who set out to see him ever returned. Determined to reveal the mystery, our protagonist has set foot in this enchanted kingdom, in search of the monster and intent on providing proof of its existence.

The forest is a breathtaking sight. Soft whispers echoed in the air, as if the forest itself held long-forgotten secrets.

The journey is not without its dangers. Venomous plants and streams, animals and little monsters, all to be overcome with quick reflexes and agile jumps. Only with a little luck the photographer manages to meet some friendly entity who can provide him with indications and clues to reveal the secrets of the forest.



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# 3. Mechanics

## 3.1 Core Game Play

The gameplay of Mystery's Lens combines elements of platforming, puzzle-solving, and photography mechanics to create an engaging and immersive experience. Players control the protagonist, a skilled photographer, as they navigate through a visually stunning 2D forest environment filled with supernatural beings.

The core objective of the game is to reach the center of the forest and find the lair of the legendary monster. Along the way, players encounter various obstacles, such as hostile animals, mischievous creatures, and treacherous streams or poisonous plants. They must use their platforming skills to jump, dodge, and overcome these challenges, ensuring the protagonist's safe progression.

As a photographer, the protagonist possesses a magical camera with special abilities. These abilities allow players to interact with the environment in unique ways. For example, they can use the camera to reveal hidden objects, unveil the true form of supernatural entities, or solve puzzles by capturing specific images. Players must strategically utilize these camera abilities to overcome obstacles, unlock secret areas, and progress through the game.

### 3.1.1 Photography Quizzes

The educational aspect of the gameplay comes into themed quizzes related to photography. At certain points in the game, players are presented with photography-related questions that test their knowledge. Correctly answering these questions rewards players with additional lives or other bonuses, providing an incentive to learn and engage with the educational content.

Throughout the game, players are immersed in a captivating storyline, encountering intriguing characters, and uncovering the secrets of the forest. The combination of platforming challenges, puzzle-solving, and photography-themed quizzes creates a multifaceted gameplay experience that keeps players engaged and motivated as they explore the fantastical world of Mystery's Lens.

## 3.2 Game Flow and Levels

Typical game flow in “Mystery’s Lens” will be normally quite linear. Players will be given a path to follow, then be given some choices to explore a certain section of the forest. There are different levels:

**Introduction:** A tutorial level that familiarizes players with basic controls and movement mechanics.

**Forest Entrance:** A level that introduces players to the forest environment and its initial challenges, such as cross streams, avoiding hostile animals, and capturing their first glimpses of supernatural beings.

**Whispering Grove:** Multiple levels within the Whispering Grove, each with unique puzzles and platforming obstacles. Players solve riddles and uncover hidden paths and secrets.

**Enchanted Waters:** A level centered around a shimmering pond guarded by a water spirit. Players must capture reflections, manipulate the environment using the camera’s abilities.

**Nexus of Legends:** The final level leading to the center of the forest. Players face a culmination of challenges, combining platforming skills, puzzle-solving, and capturing images of elusive supernatural creatures.

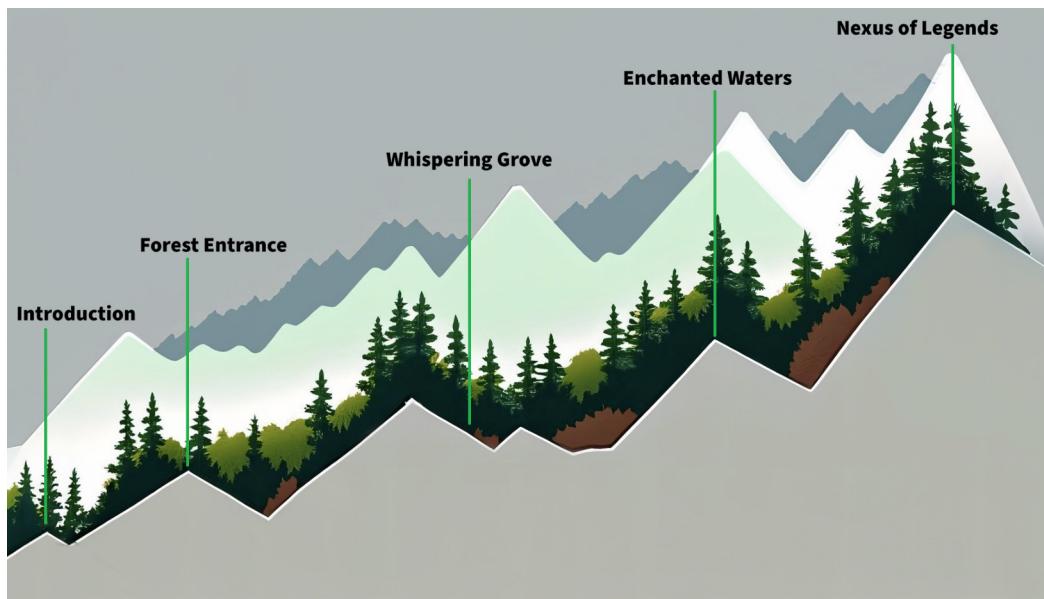


Figure 3.1: Game Flow of Levels

## 3.3 Lives and Checkpoints

The player has 3 lives in each level, if he loses one he will respawn by the last checkpoint, if he loses all of them he has to restart the level. Along the way, he loses his life if he is hit by an animal or monster or if he is poisoned by a plant. The same happens if he falls into the water of rivers. He can win back some lives if he, for example, answers certain quizzes correctly along the way.

## 3.4 Characters

Following, the description of each character, enemy or item in the game.

### 3.4.1 The Photographer

**Description:** The protagonist is a skilled and adventurous photographer who embarks on a quest to capture evidence of the legendary monster. He is equipped with a camera that possesses magical abilities, allowing him to interact with the environment and reveal hidden truths.

**Visual Design:** The protagonist can be depicted as a determined individual with a sense of curiosity and a passion for photography. He has a practical attire suitable for exploring a forest environment, such as a sturdy jacket, cargo pants, and boots. Additionally, he carries a camera slung across his body for easy access.



Figure 3.2: Photographer



Figure 3.3: Spritelights

### 3.4.2 Spritelights

**Description:** Spritelights are mischievous creatures that guide the protagonist through the forest, illuminating hidden paths and secrets.

**Visual Design:** Spritelights can be depicted as small, luminescent creatures with delicate, insect-like wings and a playful demeanor. They have a bioluminescent glow and intricate patterns on their wings to enhance their magical and captivating presence.



Figure 3.4: Lumina

### 3.4.3 Lumina

**Description:** Lumina is a wise and ancient owl residing in the Whispering Grove. She provides guidance and cryptic riddles to the protagonist, helping them unravel the secrets of the forest.

**Visual Design:** Lumina is portrayed as a majestic and wise owl with large, piercing eyes and intricate feather patterns. She has ethereal elements, such as a softly glowing aura or shimmering feathers, to emphasize her mystical nature.



Figure 3.5: Water Spirit



Figure 3.6: Forest Spirit

### 3.4.4 Guardian Spirits

**Description:** These spirits serve as protectors of the forest and they appear as puzzles for the protagonist to overcome.

**Visual Design:** Guardian Spirits have an ethereal and majestic appearance. They have flowing, translucent forms, reminiscent of wisps or apparitions. They incorporate elements of their respective domains, such as water for a water spirit or earthy textures for a forest guardian, to emphasize their connection to nature.

## 3.5 Enemies

### 3.5.1 Hostile Animals

**Description:** The forest is populated by aggressive animals that pose a threat to the protagonist. These animals may include wolves, wild boars, or birds of prey.

**Visual Design:** The hostile animals design is a balance of realism and a touch of fantasy. They have slightly exaggerated features, such as sharper teeth or more pronounced claws, to emphasize their aggressive nature.



Figure 3.7: Wolves and Birds of Prey



Figure 3.8: Wild Boars



Figure 3.9: Insects

### 3.5.2 Mischievous Insects

**Description:** The forest is teeming with mischievous insects that hinder the protagonist's progress. These insects include buzzing bees and clever spiders.

**Visual Design:** They have vibrant colors and distinctive features. They also have exaggerated proportions or whimsical shapes to emphasize their mischievous nature.

### 3.5.3 Little Monsters

**Description:** The forest is home to small, mischievous monsters that enjoy causing trouble for the protagonist. These monsters may be imp-like creatures, goblins, or quirky mythical creatures.

**Visual Design:** Little monsters have a wide range of appearances, each with their unique characteristics. They have playful and whimsical features.



Figure 3.10: Little Monsters



Figure 3.11: Legendary Monster

## 3.6 The Legendary Monster

**Description:** The legendary monster is the ultimate goal of the protagonist's journey. It is a fearsome and mythical creature whose existence has long been debated. Its appearance and abilities should evoke awe and mystery.

**Visual Design:** It has a mix of fantastical and intimidating features. A large and imposing stature, with a blend of animalistic and supernatural traits. Unique details such as glowing eyes, intricate patterns, ethereal elements to highlight its mythical nature.

## 3.7 Obstacles

### 3.7.1 Environmental Hazards

**Description:** The forest is filled with natural hazards that impede the protagonist's progress. These hazards can include *thorny bushes*, *toxic plants*, or *crumbling tree branches*.

**Visual Design:** Environmental hazards are visually distinct and easily recognizable. Sharp and jagged shapes for thorny bushes, vibrant colors or glowing effects for toxic plants, and visibly decaying textures for crumbling branches. Animations or visual cues to indicate when these hazards are active or pose a threat to the protagonist.



Figure 3.12: Environmental Hazards

### 3.7.2 Challenging Platforms

**Description:** The forest presents various platforming challenges, such as *moving platforms*, *crumbling platforms*, *swinging liana* or *narrow ledges*.

**Visual Design:** Platforms with diverse shapes, sizes, and movement patterns to add complexity and variety. Moving platforms could have rhythmic movement, while crumbling platforms show signs of wear and instability. Each platforming challenge is visually communicated and offers visual cues to help players gauge their timing and jumps accurately.

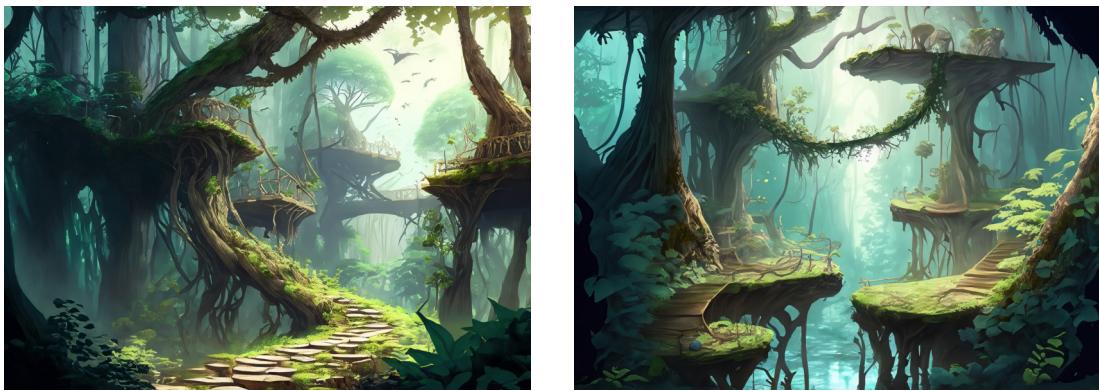


Figure 3.13: Challenging Platforms

### 3.7.3 Water and Aquatic Obstacles

**Description:** The forest may feature bodies of water, such as *rivers or lakes*, which pose challenges to the protagonist.

**Visual Design:** Fluid animations and dynamic water physics. Use visual cues like frothing waves or swirling currents to indicate dangerous areas.



Figure 3.14: Water and Aquatic Obstacles

### 3.7.4 Quizzes

**Description:** The forest may house quizzes that must be solved to progress.

**Visual Design:** Quizzes are visually integrated into the environment and offer visual clues or hints.

## 3.8 Items

### 3.8.1 Camera Upgrades

Throughout the game, players can discover or earn camera upgrades that enhance their photography abilities. These upgrades could include improved zoom, night vision mode, or the ability to capture hidden objects.

### 3.8.2 Power-Ups

Various power-ups can aid the player in their journey through the forest. For example, a temporary speed boost that allows the protagonist to outrun enemies or jump higher to reach otherwise inaccessible areas.

### 3.8.3 Health Restoratives

Items such as health potions, healing herbs, or magical orbs can restore the protagonist's health when collected.

### 3.8.4 Extra Lives

Collectible items that grant the player additional chances upon losing a life. These are represented as hearts.

### 3.8.5 Quiz Boosters

Items that can be used during the photography-themed quizzes to provide advantages, such as additional time, hints, or skipping difficult questions.

## 3.9 Player Controls

### 3.9.1 Keyboard Controls

#### Arrow keys or WASD keys

Use these keys for basic movement controls, allowing the player to move the protagonist left, right, up, and down.

#### Spacebar

This key is for the protagonist's jump action, enabling the player to make the character leap over obstacles or onto platforms.

### 3.9.2 Mouse

The mouse aims and interacts with the camera. The player can move the mouse to adjust the camera angle or click to capture photographs.

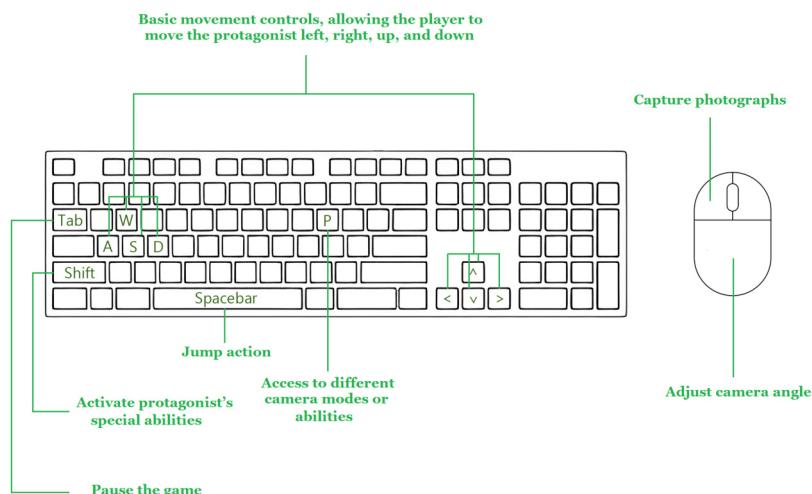


Figure 3.15: PC Keyboard and Mouse Controls

### 3.9.3 Additional Keyboard Controls

#### Shift key

Access to the protagonist's special abilities, such as sprinting or activating a temporary power-up.

#### Tab key

Use this key to pause the game.

#### P key

Use P for quick access to different camera modes or abilities.

---

# **4. Aesthetics**

## **4.1 Introduction**

The aesthetics and visual design of a game play is a crucial role in creating an immersive and captivating experience. In this chapter, we explore the artistic direction, visual style, and atmospheric elements that bring the world of Mystery's Lens to life.

## **4.2 Artistic Direction**

The artistic direction of Mystery's Lens aims to blend fantasy and nature, creating a visually stunning world that combines enchantment with the allure of the natural environment. It draws inspiration from magical forests, mythical creatures, and the captivating beauty of the wilderness.

## **4.3 Visual Style**

The visual style of Mystery's Lens embraces a 2D aesthetic with attention to detail. It features lush environments, vibrant colors, and imaginative character designs. The artwork incorporates soft lighting and subtle textures to evoke a sense of wonder and create a visually rich and enchanting atmosphere.

## **4.4 Enchanting Environments**

The game's environments are designed to immerse players in a mystical forest setting. Each area is meticulously crafted to convey a sense of grandeur, mystery, and natural beauty.

## **4.5 Character Design**

The characters in Mystery's Lens are brought to life with distinct visual traits that reflect their personalities and their connection to the supernatural realm. From the protagonist's determined and adventurous appearance to the captivating designs of supernatural beings, the character designs aim to evoke a sense of awe and intrigue.

## **4.6 Magical Effects and Animations**

To enhance the magical atmosphere, Mystery's Lens incorporates visually stunning effects and animations. Glowing auras, shimmering particles, and subtle magic effects are used to emphasize the supernatural elements present in the game. Smooth and fluid

animations add a level of polish to character movements and interactions, enhancing the overall visual experience.

## 4.7 Interface

The game will have a very clean interface and a simplistic menu structure. The initial interface has the Start Game option. At the bottom, on the left, the player will be able to select 'Select Level'. The select level alternative opens up another menus where he can choose to start the game at any level he has been to previously. Always at the bottom, but on the right, the player can enter the settings in which he can choose to disable the music and sounds. An other simple 2D interface appears during the game when the player has to answer the quizzes.

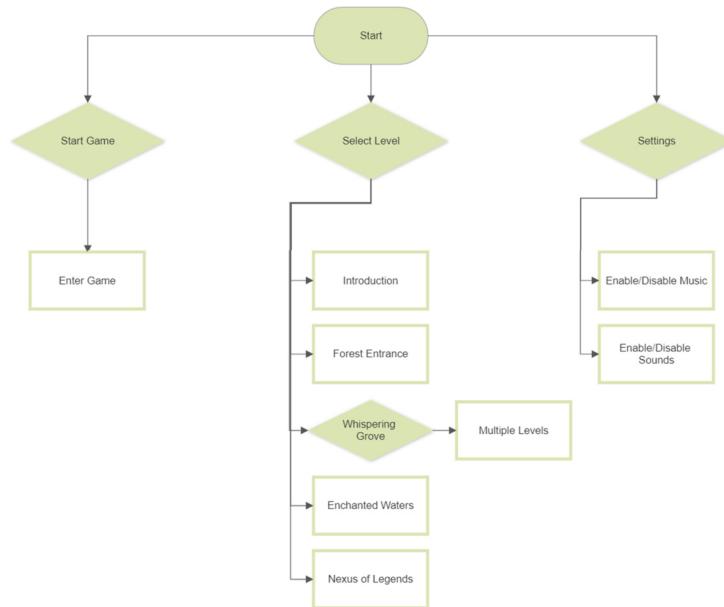


Figure 4.1: Flow Chart

## 4.8 Audio-Visual Synchronization

The aesthetics of Mystery's Lens are complemented by a carefully crafted audio experience. The soundtrack features melodic and atmospheric compositions that enhance the mood and immerse players in the forest's enchanting ambiance. Sound effects are intricately designed to synchronize with visual elements and animations of the characters, further enriching the immersive gameplay.

## 4.9 Conclusion

The aesthetics of Mystery's Lens play a vital role in captivating players and immersing them in a visually stunning and enchanting world. The artistic direction, visual style, enchanting environments, character designs, magical effects, and synchronized audio elements work together to create a cohesive and memorable aesthetic experience.

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# 5. Technologies

## 5.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the technologies and development tools utilized in the creation of Mystery's Lens are described, with a particular emphasis on the Unity game engine and related technologies.

## 5.2 Unity Game Engine

Unity is a widely used and versatile game engine that forms the foundation of Mystery's Lens. It provides a comprehensive set of features and tools that facilitate the development of 2D and 3D games.

### 5.2.1 Key Unity Features and Benefits

The key features and benefits of Unity that are relevant for this game are:

**Cross-platform compatibility:** Unity allows deployment to multiple platforms, including PC, console, and mobile devices, enabling a broader reach for players. The game means to be developed for PC but in the future the porting to other platforms is possible.

**Visual editor:** Unity's intuitive visual editor simplifies the creation and manipulation of game assets, scenes, and animations, improving the development workflow.

**Scripting and programming capabilities:** Unity supports various programming languages, such as C# (Section 5.3) and UnityScript, providing flexibility for implementing game logic and mechanics. At the moment, all the scripts of the game are developed in C#.

**Asset pipeline:** Unity's asset pipeline facilitates the import and management of assets, such as character models, animations, audio files, and textures.

**Physics and collision detection:** Unity's built-in physics engine assists in creating realistic movement, interactions, and collision detection within the game world.

### 5.2.2 Third-Party Tools and Plugins

Detail any third-party tools or plugins integrated with Unity to enhance the development process or provide additional functionality:

**Graphics and Visual Effects:** Describe any graphic tools or plugins used for creating visual effects, shaders, or post-processing effects to enhance the game's visuals.

**Audio and Sound Design:** Mention any audio tools or plugins employed for sound design, music composition, or audio integration to enrich the auditory experience.

**Asset Creation and Management:** Discuss any external software or plugins used for asset creation, such as 3D modeling tools, image editing software, or animation software.

**Version Control:** Outline the version control system employed, such as Git or Perforce, to manage source code and collaborate efficiently with the development team.

## 5.3 C# Scripting in Unity

Unity supports various programming languages, but C# (C Sharp) is the most widely used and recommended language for scripting within the engine. C# provides a powerful and flexible framework for developing gameplay mechanics, character interactions, and overall game logic.

C# is the used scripting language in this game and thanks to it each character has a custom behaviour and the mechanisms of the game are solid, providing a polished gaming experience with Mystery's Lens.

There are many reasons that make C# the preferred choice for making scripts in Unity:

### 5.3.1 Object-Oriented Programming (OOP)

C# is an object-oriented programming language, which aligns perfectly with Unity's component-based architecture. In Unity, game objects are entities composed of components, and C# scripts can define custom behaviors for these components. The OOP paradigm allows developers to create reusable and modular code, making it easier to manage and maintain large projects.

### 5.3.2 Seamless Integration with Unity

C# is officially supported by Unity, and the engine provides a robust set of APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) that are accessible through C# scripts. This seamless integration allows developers to access Unity's vast array of features, such as physics, animation, UI, audio, and more, directly from C# code.

### 5.3.3 Familiarity and Popularity

C# is a widely used programming language in the software development industry, making it familiar to many developers. Its syntax is similar to other languages like Java and C++, which contributes to its popularity and ease of adoption. The availability of numerous learning resources, tutorials, and forums for C# in Unity makes it accessible for developers of all skill levels.

### 5.3.4 Performance and Memory Management

C# is a managed language, meaning it provides automatic memory management through garbage collection. C# scripts in Unity can achieve high performance, especially when used effectively and with proper optimization.

### 5.3.5 Community Support and Third-Party Libraries

In Unity's C# scripting community there is a wealth of resources and solutions readily available. Developers can find plugins, tools, and open-source projects created by the community, which helps accelerate development and enhances the overall productivity.

## 5.4 Artificial Intelligence

This section describes the role of Artificial Intelligence in the creation of Concept Art.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been increasingly used in the creative industries, including game development and concept art. One such AI-powered tool is **Adobe Firefly**<sup>1</sup>, which showcases the potential of AI in assisting artists during the concept art creation process.

### 5.4.1 AI-Assisted Generation

AI-powered tools like Adobe Firefly can assist concept artists in generating ideas, compositions, and visual elements for the game. Through machine learning algorithms, AI can analyze existing artwork, learn from it, and generate new content based on the learned patterns. This capability enables artists to quickly explore various design possibilities and iterate on concepts efficiently.

### 5.4.2 Speeding Up Iteration

Concept art often involves multiple iterations before achieving the desired visual direction. AI tools can accelerate this process by generating quick variations of assets, characters, environments, and effects. Artists can then use these generated concepts as a starting point, saving time and effort in the initial ideation phase.

### 5.4.3 Texturing and Rendering

AI algorithms can be used to automate certain aspects of texturing and rendering. This can involve generating seamless textures, improving lighting conditions, or enhancing the overall visual fidelity of the concept art. Such automation can streamline the production process and improve the final quality of the artwork.

### 5.4.4 Supporting Artistic Creativity

While AI tools can assist in generating concepts and offering suggestions, they are not meant to replace the creativity and artistic vision of human artists. Instead, AI should be seen as a valuable collaborator that complements and supports the artist's ideas, allowing them to focus on the more imaginative and expressive aspects of concept art.

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<sup>1</sup><https://firefly.adobe.com/>

## 5.5 Conclusion

The seamless integration of Unity, C#, and AI technologies is useful in creating Mystery's Lens, a captivating and visually immersive 2D platformer. Unity's robust game engine provides a versatile platform for implementing game mechanics and animations. C# scripting allows for efficient and modular code development, allowing to create complex gameplay systems.

AI-powered tools like Adobe Firefly enhance the concept art creation process, accelerating iteration and offering intelligent design suggestions.

As technology continues to evolve, the game will remain at the forefront of innovation, delighting players with its enchanting visuals and immersive gameplay.

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# 6. Market Analysis

In this chapter, it is provided a market analysis for Mystery's Lens, focusing on the target market, top performers in the genre, and a feature comparison to understand the game's competitive landscape.

## 6.1 Target Audience

Identifying the target market is essential for understanding the potential audience and tailoring the game experience. The target audience for Mystery's Lens encompasses a range of motivations, interests, and demographic factors. Here's a breakdown of the target audience:

### 6.1.1 Motivations and Relevant Interests

**Adventure and Exploration Game Enthusiasts:** Players who enjoy immersive storytelling, uncovering secrets, and embarking on epic journeys through fantastical worlds.

**Puzzle-Solving:** Individuals who are intrigued by challenging puzzles, riddles, and brain-teasers that require critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

**Photography Enthusiasts:** Players with an interest in photography who appreciate the fusion of gameplay mechanics and educational aspects related to the art of photography and the incorporation of photography-themed quizzes.

**Fantasy and Supernatural:** Fans of fantasy and supernatural themes, including mythical creatures, magical environments, and enchanting atmospheres.

**Casual Gamers:** Players seeking an accessible yet engaging gaming experience, with a preference for 2D platformers and unique gameplay mechanics.

### 6.1.2 Age and Gender

**Age Range:** Mystery's Lens targets a broad age range, appealing to teenagers and adults who appreciate adventure games and platformers. The core demographic is between 15 and 35 years old.

**Gender:** The game is designed to be enjoyable by players of all genders, with a focus on captivating gameplay and an engaging narrative that appeals to a diverse audience.

### 6.1.3 ESRB Rating

The desired ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) rating for Mystery's Lens is likely "Everyone" (E) or "Everyone 10+" (E10+). The game aims to provide an accessible and family-friendly experience, suitable for players of various ages, without including explicit content, violence, or mature themes. It's important to note that while the target audience is defined, Mystery's Lens can still appeal to a wider range of players who appreciate its unique combination of adventure, photography, and fantasy elements. Continuously gathering player feedback and conducting market research will help refine the target audience and align the game's features and marketing strategies accordingly.

## 6.2 Top Performers in the Genre

To gain insights into successful games within the genre, we analyze the top performers:

### 6.2.1 "Ori and the Blind Forest"

This 2D platformer captivated players with its stunning visuals, emotional storytelling, and precise platforming mechanics. It created a strong emotional connection with the audience, which aligns with Mystery's Lens' focus on immersive storytelling and enchanting environments.



Figure 6.1: Ori and The Blind Forest

### 6.2.2 "Hollow Knight"

Known for its atmospheric world, intricate level design, and deep exploration, Hollow Knight has garnered a dedicated following. Its beautiful hand-drawn art style, challenging combat, and immersive gameplay have made it a standout title in the genre.



Figure 6.2: Hollow Knight

### 6.2.3 "Owlboy"

Praised for its gorgeous pixel art, compelling storyline, and memorable characters, Owlboy delivered a nostalgic yet fresh platforming experience. Its emphasis on exploration, puzzle-solving, and emotional storytelling resonated with players.



Figure 6.3: Owlboy

## 6.3 Feature Comparison

To assess the competitive landscape and highlight the unique features of Mystery's Lens, here is a comparison to similar games in the market:

**Unique Photography Mechanics:** Unlike other platformers, Mystery's Lens incorporates photography-themed gameplay, requiring players to capture images of supernatural beings and solve puzzles related to photography. This distinctive feature sets it apart and appeals to photography enthusiasts.

**Educational Component:** Mystery's Lens provides an educational element through photography-themed quizzes, offering players an opportunity to expand their knowledge while progressing through the game. This unique integration of education and gameplay differentiates it from traditional platformers.

**Enchanting Visuals and Atmosphere:** Similar to top performers in the genre, Mystery's Lens focuses on creating visually stunning environments, magical effects, and captivating atmospheres to immerse players in the fantasy world.

**Engaging Storytelling:** Building on the success of narrative-driven games, Mystery's Lens incorporates a compelling storyline with intriguing characters, creating an emotional connection and motivating players to explore and uncover the secrets of the forest.

## 6.4 Monetization Mechanism

### 6.4.1 Premium Game Model

Mystery's Lens will utilize a premium game model, where players will need to make an upfront purchase to access the full game experience. This approach ensures that players can enjoy the entirety of the game without intrusive advertisements or paywalls, fostering a more immersive and enjoyable experience.

#### **6.4.2 In-Game Virtual Currency**

To provide additional options for customization and progression, Mystery's Lens may include an in-game virtual currency system. Players will be able to earn or purchase virtual currency, which can be used to unlock cosmetic items, camera upgrades, or additional content. The virtual currency system offers players a sense of achievement and allows them to personalize their gameplay experience while supporting the game's ongoing development and updates.

#### **6.4.3 Expansion Packs or DLC**

To provide extended content and keep players engaged, Mystery's Lens may release expansion packs or downloadable content (DLC) in the future. These packs can include new levels, storylines, characters, or gameplay mechanics. By offering compelling additional content, the game can generate revenue from players who wish to further explore the world and continue their adventure beyond the base game.

#### **6.4.4 Merchandise and Licensing**

As Mystery's Lens establishes a dedicated fan base, there may be opportunities to leverage its popularity through merchandise and licensing agreements. This can include the production and sale of physical merchandise such as apparel, collectibles, or artbooks. Additionally, licensing the game's intellectual property for adaptations into other media forms, such as books, comics, or even potential collaborations, can provide an additional revenue stream.

### **6.5 Conclusion**

Through the analysis of the target market, top performers, and feature comparison, it is evident that Mystery's Lens has the potential to resonate with adventure game enthusiasts, photography enthusiasts, and casual gamers seeking a unique and captivating experience. Its incorporation of photography mechanics, educational elements, enchanting visuals, and immersive storytelling sets it apart in the market and positions it to attract a dedicated audience.

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# 7. Conclusions

In conclusion, Mystery's Lens is an enchanting 2D platformer that transports players to a fantastical world of supernatural wonders and captivating beauty. Throughout the game, players take on the role of a daring photographer on a thrilling quest to uncover the truth behind ancient legends and mythical creatures hidden within a mysterious forest.

The game's unique blend of adventure, photography, and puzzle-solving mechanics offers an innovative and engaging gameplay experience. By combining traditional platformer elements with the educational aspect of photography-themed quizzes, Mystery's Lens not only entertains players but also provides an opportunity to learn and appreciate the art of photography.

The artistic direction and visual design of the game transport players into a mesmerizing world filled with lush environments, magical effects, and ethereal atmospheres. The attention to detail in character design, enemy creatures, and the diverse range of locations elevate the overall aesthetics, immersing players in a visual feast of enchantment.

The utilization of C# scripting in Unity is instrumental in bringing the game's mechanics and interactions to life. The use of AI-powered tools, such as Adobe Firefly, has accelerated concept art creation, allowing to explore creative possibilities and refine the game's visual direction with efficiency and innovation.

With a target audience encompassing adventure game enthusiasts, photography passionate, and casual gamers, Mystery's Lens has the potential to captivate a diverse player base. By striking a balance between accessible gameplay, immersive storytelling, and a visually stunning experience, the game aims to leave a lasting impression on players of all ages and backgrounds.

## 7.1 Final Considerations and Further Work

While Mystery's Lens stands as a captivating 2D platformer with a unique blend of adventure and photography-themed gameplay, there are various avenues for further work and expansion to extend the game's reach and enrich the player experience:

**Multiplatform Release:** Expansion of Mystery's Lens to additional gaming platforms, such as consoles, mobile devices, and cloud gaming services.

**Downloadable Content (DLC):** New exciting DLC packs that introduce new levels, characters, and stories to keep players engaged and invested in the game's universe.

**3D version and Virtual Reality (VR) Support:** Exploring in 3 dimensions and with the integration of virtual reality technology to provide a more immersive and interactive experience.

**Localization and Global Reach:** Expand the game's accessibility by localizing it into multiple languages, enabling players from diverse cultural backgrounds to enjoy the immersive world of Mystery's Lens.

**Merchandising and Licensing:** Capitalize on the game's popularity by creating merchandise, such as art books, posters, figurines, or clothing, to cater to dedicated fans and enthusiasts. Additionally, explore licensing opportunities for spin-offs, adaptations, or collaborations to extend the game's brand beyond the digital realm.

**Educational Partnerships:** Strengthen the educational aspect of the game by partnering with educational institutions, photography organizations, or wildlife conservation groups. These partnerships can provide valuable insights and authentic content, enhancing the game's educational value.

**Social Media and Marketing:** Maintain a strong presence on social media platforms to connect with players, share updates, and build a dedicated community. Engage with gaming influencers and media outlets to promote the game and reach a broader audience.

Mystery's Lens is an enchanting 2D platformer that combines adventure, fantasy, and photography-themed gameplay. With its captivating visuals, innovative mechanics, and immersive storytelling, the game offers a unique and memorable experience for players of all ages.

The journey of Mystery's Lens is far from over. With boundless potential for expansion and continued engagement, Mystery's Lens is ready to leave a lasting impression on the gaming world.