

A conversation with Eric

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What is the Chronicles of 7th Grade?

Eric: It was a project that I started in 10th grade with which I attempted to write down as much detail from 7th grade as I could remember.

Why did you start writing about the 7th grade?

Eric: For one thing, it was the first year during which means playing as a Nintendo 64, two years after it had been released in the United States. It was also the first year that I knew Matthew and the year that I actually enjoyed having him around or going to his house.

Other than that, I really can't place a finger on what made it so special. Somehow I think that if the events from that year were switched with those from either 6th grade or 8th grade, then it would still be the most special year I ever had and ever will have.

Why do you think that is?

Eric: Like I said, it's not something I can't explain specifically.

Oh, okay. So everything you write about is based entirely on memory?

Eric: Most of it is. A few things that are from written sources such as my agenda book, or a journal I used to keep for group back then.

don, and Marie got The Bug's Life. Mom then took me and Brian to Blockbuster. Brian rented Star Wars: Rogue Squadron. When we got home, I was wandering in the driveway, and I fell off of the wall surrounding the bushes and broke my wrist. Mom came over and brought me into the house to look at it.

March 14, 1999 (Sunday)

Today, Grandma Ella came over. White she was over, we went to see October Skies. The charac-

The Chronicles of 7th Grade

February 5, 1999 (Friday)

Today in Reading, we were given a piece of paper, and we were supposed to name one good thing we did yesterday. I misunderstood what Mrs. Mancini said, so I wrote "Went to the Lip Sync yesterday. The Spice girls won" and then tried to black it out as much as possible. When I got home, I looked at the Super Mario Bros. 3 Player's Guide. White I was reading it, me and the other kids each got a chocolate ball with tiny candies inside. Me and Brian got Armaged-

Oh, how do you remember all the information?

Eric: I kept a system of weeks in my head. I either remember them mainly in units of six, but on a secondary basis in units of seven and eleven.

Could you explain that a little bit more?

Eric: In 8th grade just continued into 8th grade, but faded out afterwards. It started out in 6th grade when it was based on days of the week rather than weeks themselves.

Oh. Could you explain that a little bit more? Like how you memorized – how you categorize certain days?

Eric: It's memorizing some - one or more things that happened on each day is what it is.

Is there anything you like to write about most?

Eric: No, I just sort of write down as much as I can remember.

What about like getting into trouble or like video games that you played?

Eric: It counts just as much as everything else and vice versa. Was that question number 6?

of Zelda: A Link to the Past. I left my game
This morning, I got up early and played Legend
March 21, 1999 (Sunday)
times in Hyrule Castle.
times, but I gave up after dying like fourteen
tried to see what would happen if I died 99
Later today, I played "Legend of Zelda." I
scientific."
lawyer." Mom's like "Try to be a little more
projectile, and he's like "We should launch this
ters were cursing, and I was repeating the as a
curses. During the movie, Dad kicked me when I
When we got home, I got a bag of skittles.
Now that I had a bag each of M&Ms and Skittles,
I opened both of them and separated each of them
by color, and showed Mom and Dad. Then I tried
to stuff them all in my mouth at once. Dad spoke
to me about this.
A few minutes later, Mom was trying to help
me with my Science Olympics project, and she
asked Brian to help me. I was building a marsh-
mallow catapult, and Brian was using a Lego man

It's part of Question 5. But going on to Question 6, why do you write more about certain things than others?

Eric: If I knew what as to why I write about - so much about the video games I played, to answer that, back to - they've always been one of the most important things in my life.

What do you like so much about video games?

Eric: Well, my dad once said that people play them because it let's them escape from reality and to live in a fantasy world. For a complex explanation, I don't think I want to even begin.

Do you think that's what you're doing with video games?

Eric: Yeah.

If you don't mind me asking, why do you like to fantasize?

Eric: Why do I what?

Like to fantasize or escape with video games.?

Eric: It's just I can't really explain why. I can't. So you want to move on then?

embarrassed. You know he loves them." Uncle Robby asked me what the squirrel's name was. I told him his name's Nuts. After a few minutes, we then went down to the lake to feed the ducks. When we came back, I wandered outside and thought about that game. In New York City the second time around, Janus had lost her baby and her six kittens, and you have to find them. One of them is in someone's house, one of them is in the sewer, one of them is the prize for a snowboarding race, one of them is in another person's house who gives it to you, one of them

On the way to Uncle Robby's, Mom was listening to oldies, and there was this song called "You talk too much." When we got to a rest area, I thought about that lip sync, and I thought that one of the teachers might sing that. When we got to Uncle Robby's, Mom picked up Adam. Grandpa Bob wasn't there yet. I asked Brian to do Baby Bongos. He did, and Uncle Robby asked him what that was. Brian told him. Soon, I brought all my stuffed animals out of the car, and Brian's like "Look's like Eric found his best friend." Mom's like "Don't get

Sure. How does writing about the 7th grade make you feel?

Eric: Well, the actual writing part stuff is a bit of a chore, but looking back to it makes me feel happy. Like looking back to the stuff that happened in 8th grade just doesn't have that spark.

And so there's some fan-fic that I want to write at some point after I finish Chronicles of 7th Grade. But I'll go into an explanation of what that is tomorrow in my blog.

Okay. Would you mind talking about it now?

Eric: Well, I'll try to summarize what it is. But I did come up with the idea even back in 7th grade, but evolved throughout time. So what it is, is that I write about events that happened, but I don't want it to be entirely about me.

I want it to be about 24 different individuals including myself, and the events in each person's life intertwining with one another. It also crosses over with Mon Colle Knights, with this anime series called Mon Colle Knights that - which is the main characters with two sideline characters, and several non-canon characters that are also in it.

Okay, that sounds pretty cool.

Eric: Yeah.

it. I also pretended a spray can would do it, and I threw it to the fridge, and Mom got mad at me. Mom asked me to get something from the car, and I threw Trixie down the stairs to get it, and then I sent Duckbut to get him, and I'm like "Duckbut, go get him," and then I sent Seaweed, and then Nuts, and then Mole, and then I would pretend to go tobogganing, and I'm like "I'm going tobogganing." Grandpa Bob and Uncle Robby were watching TV, and there was this commercial for a car, and it was racing with a dragon, and the speaker's

is in Ms. Kenzig's car (Ms. Kenzig has been killed, and you find her keys from her), and the other two are somewhere else. When I came back inside, I slept on the couch for a long time. Brian, Marie, and Grandpa Bob went outside to play baseball, but I just kept sleeping. Tonight, we were having beef casserole, but I don't like beef casserole, so I just skipped dinner tonight. When Mom asked me to do something, I didn't wanna get up, but she's like "You're the one who had a nap all day." I pretended my stuffed animals would do

So it's gonna be – so it's fiction based off of your 7th grade?

Eric: Yeah.

Okay, cool. When you're writing the Chronicles of 7th Grade, are – is it harder to write about certain days than others? Like, does writing about it make – and remembering every detail sort of bring up the feelings from that day?

Eric: Not really. But actually, yeah, it would. I remember when I got to a certain day in which I had a dispute with Mom and Dad up in Acadia National Park, that was a real chore. But I pulled through it, and I had to break from it until – I had gotten up to that last summer and I had to take at least a week to – away from – off from writing the thing.

Could you tell me some – oh, sorry.

Eric: And then I wasn't able to write about it in detail. But no, I don't hold any grudges from sort of the past.

So who would you say some notable people are from the 7th grade?

Eric: Wait, repeat that again.

like "Ford. It knows good, it knows evil." I was speaking Pakistani. We got home really fricken late tonight. I turned off my game, and I'm like "This game's crappy." Brian's like "I know you are." March 22, 1999 (Monday) When I got home from school today, I had a lot of homework, but I got it done in a short time and continued to do most of the homework that's being assigned tomorrow. Tomorrow, I'm not gonna have much homework. Tonight, me and the other kids watched Hey Arnold. Arnold was having a stopped at the gas station, and the gas dealer like "Raethine's under- might use the dragon as one of Raethine's under- things, called Raethine's, in my game. When I came back up, Marie asked Grandpa "What's upstairs?" He told her there are dragons upstairs. Me and Marie went upstairs, and when we came back down, I'm like "I'm going toboggan- ing." (i.e. sliding down the stairs on my legs) When we got in the suburban, my white blanket felt nice and cool, and I tried to touch it as little as possible. On the way home, Mom like "I know you are." I

Who are some notable people from the 7th grade?

Eric: I got a whole bunch of them listed here. Let me count. [Counting 1 to 16] You want me to go through the list of them?

Yeah, sure, feel free to describe them or talk about them as you like.

Eric: Okay, well:

One, Anne Marie Bandow, my one-on-one for most of the time. Half the time she was nice to me, but the other half of it she was a bit stern. The 7th grade had been the last full year that she had been my aide until at some point in 8th grade she was replaced by someone else.

Two, Matthew Nidich, someone who went to group for a good portion of the year. He and I frequently got together and played video games. After 7th grade I found visiting him or inviting him over to be less and less enjoyable until Mom and I agreed to cut the number of hours during which I'd spend time with him.

Three, Anna McKenzie, a girl I knew from summer camp in 1998. She happened to be the first 10 year old girl I ever knew who wore braces at the time. Before summer camp of '99 I'd only seen her twice, once during the Veterans Day parade and once when Mom was driving around with us.

Although I do understand that she has been both a Girl Scout and on sort of the track team which - the latter of which Brian was also in and the former of which Marie was in as well.

Today so she remained Ennis is one of over 18 real life based kid who will appear in fan-fic series called Monster Collection Chronicles. And she's my favorite of the supporting Knights.

Four, Dennis Marino, someone I'd been friends with during 5th grade even though he was four years younger than me. In 6th he had done some mean things and very often made up excuses as to why he couldn't play with me. I hated him since May 1998, and during 7th grade I fanaticized about buying him off of his family to have as our slave.

Five, the kid from my snowboarding trip. That was just something - just an example Marie came up with when she emailed me. These would be - consist of my circle of side line friends at the time. Brian's circle

of friends, Marie's circle of friends, and everyone who had been in my gym class and the other adaptive gym class during 6th grade. The actual snowboarding trip which was inspired from some time a month earlier when we rented a Snowboard Kids and a rental Nintendo 64. As I also mentioned during the first entry had been cancelled very early in 7th grade.

Gretchen Nasaoun, another cute girl I met at summer camp towards the end of the Chronicles of 7th Grade. I liked her mainly because of her plastic hair band, even though she didn't wear braces to go with it.

James Russell, one of Brian's friends. He was the one who got Snowboard Kids for Christmas that year.

Craig Spencer, another boring friend. From what I understand he had moved away late in the year.

Daniel Lupfer, a friend of mine since 3rd grade. After summer camp that year though, I began to see him less and less.

Libby, a sidelined friend of mine. She was the one that I had danced with at the end of the year dance. I just can't remember her last name.

Juliette Williams, head of the group for most of the time. She was first assisted by another lady named Jane, who left early on.

Annelle, Juliette's assistant in group. At some point Juliette left and she took over the leader.

Erin Hatch, a girl I knew at school in 6th grade. Most notable about her is that I once planned on sneaking her a note saying that she has a big cone shaped nose, which is something I did succeed at with another girl named Eloise, through her locker a year later.

Other than that, I just thought she was pretty because of the braces that she wore in 6th grade. So the other - I only one time tried to make friends with her.

Janice Tappa, one of my substitute aides, and also took over from Miss Badow during 7th period when she went out on lunch break.

During the third quarter she left and someone named Anissa Darrow took over for her.

Corinne, our extremely overweight counselor at summer camp starting about 1998 and 1999. During the first two days of summer camp in '98 we did not get along with her and I even went as far as to give her the finger.

Hester Orelle, Reverend of Yaphank Presbyterian Church where he ran both summer camp and the Haunted Woods event that we went to. And that's it for now.

Is there anything else that you'd like to talk about?

Eric: Anything else I'd like to talk about?

Um-hum.

Eric: Oh, I should specify that when - the thing that inspired me to start writing it was around New Years of 2002 when Marie rented Snowboard Kids for the first time that we did so in three years. That has been a pretty prominent game back from my life back then. As I was going along though I started to lose inspiration and in a failed attempt to regain it I asked for the game for my birthday. As time went on I just couldn't keep at it anymore. And then during February 2008 several factors genuinely did reinspire me to continue with it. One was that I had a history class which at that time we were covering some of the same stuff that we covered back in 7th grade. And the other thing is that, you know, is that I found out that months earlier I found out about this game - Japanese game called Getter Love who when I was - this kind of stood out when I was looking for Wikipedia's list of Nintendo 64 games.

Quite by coincidence that game had been released on December 4, 1998, relatively early in the time period that Chronicles of 7th Grade covered. And it would have been interesting if we could have either saw that game in Nintendo Power magazine or actually played it at some point afterwards. And I even bought a copy of that game off of eBay several months ago, a month after I finished the documents.

retired singer attend a school dance, but it became crapply. The singer was singing "My Last Bow," and everyone thought it sucked. Arnold spoke to him, and he played something good. After it was over, I played the Endless Mode on Tetris Attack, and I was playing the Sky stage. I got seventy-two 4's by the time I got a game over. SEVENTY-TWO 4'S!!! I'm not ever gonna forget this.

March 27, 1999 (Saturday)
Today, I played Ocarina of Time.

March 28, 1999 (Palm Sunday)
Today during Sunday School, we went outside, and we watched Pastor Ralph burn palm for Palm Sunday.

March 29, 1999 (Monday)
Today, I finally got the Player's Guide for A link to the Past. I looked through it, and

Tonight, Brian went with Craig to see that play I went to see last Wednesday.

Cool. What were you going to say?

Eric: That's it with that part. But I would like to let you know to come on to my blog tomorrow where I'll talk about okay, one check my blog tomorrow when - because I'm gonna post a draft of the interview questions that you emailed me and my answers to them, and I'll be sure to link to our relevant stuff that might explain certain things.

Okay, great.

Eric: Okay then, well, okay then. So be sure to email me a copy of this interview and be sure to check my blog tomorrow for a written draft of the questions and answers.

Sure, okay, great.

Eric: Okay, thanks.

Thank you very much.

Eric: Good luck with your project.

Thank you.

Eric: Bye.

Bye-bye.

two questions of mine were answered with one
answer: What's with the green metal thing in
the Blacksmith's well, and where is the demon
that halves the amount of magic you need to use
items? You use Magic Powder on the red orb, and
there he is.
When Mom took me and Brian to the ortho-
dontist, I told Brian that like like is called
pikit in A Link to the Past. He's like "Still,
he acts like like like like." Mom asked us what we're
singing in chorus. I told her I'm singing Turn
the Lights On, Clouds, The Birth of the Blues,

and Rock'n'Roll Party Tonight. Brian's like "He
gets all the good stuff." He told us what he's
singing.
To read more of The Chronicles of 7th Grade
please visit:
<http://dmaxrated.livjournal.com/>



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