Bastion Game Critique

By: Aaron Brown
Background Information

- **Type of Game**
  - Action roleplaying game with a three-quarter top down camera angle

- **Development**
  - Supergiant Games
  - Started September 2009
  - Released July 2011

- **Platforms**
  - Xbox
  - PC, Mac, Linux
  - IPhone, IPad
Game takes place in Caelondia after the Calamity
You play as “the Kid”
The Kid goes to the Bastion
  A place to go in times of trouble
Narrator announces the Kid’s actions
Kid has to collect cores to power the Bastion
  Bastion has the power to undo the Calamity
Serious Aspect

- Bastion is an Art Game
- Art Definition
  - Something that is created with imagination and skill and that is beautiful or that expresses important ideas or feelings
  - Merriam-Webster online dictionary
- Bastion expresses feeling through…
  - Soundtrack
  - Imagery
  - Narration
Soundtrack

- Described as acoustic frontier trip-hop
- Intended to evoke thoughts of a fantasy world and the American frontier
- Has a calming effect
- Makes the listener feel sense of wonder
- Won best original score at Spike TV’s 9th annual Video Game Awards in 2011
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jU9EFTMhbY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jU9EFTMhbY)
Each scene looks like an oil painting

Parts of level assemble before you as you approach them
  Also disassemble when you move away from them
  Result is a lot of floating landmasses
  Gives a sense of the loneliness of the world after the Calamity
Narration

- The Kid’s actions are narrated by a deep, semi-western voice
- You find out the narrator is a survivor named Rucks
- Makes the game act like an interactive story
- Makes listener nostalgic for a time when they would listen to stories
The game is art because it expresses various emotions

- Wonder
- Loneliness
- Nostalgia
Gameplay Video

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZAuKkv4eZE
Sources

- https://danielkinsman.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/bastion.jpg
- http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-SOgv_LvxaNg/UsRga5nfQVI/AAAAAAAAAZI/AhHEJmd1u2Y/s1600/Soundtrack-Bastion-OST.jpg
- https://implayin.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/bastion4.jpg