

2021 MCC Creative Writing Contest

Second Place - Poetry Category

“Do You Play?” by Shane King

Do You Play, or Do You Watch?

When I was younger, I used to watch my big brother play video games.

I didn't really play with him. It was more fun to watch him play than to play myself.

Little has changed.

The only thing that's changed is the enjoyment I get from watching.

I think it's time to participate, to see what's on the other side.

I want to understand why people play instead of watching. I mean, it's so easy to watch.

I want to feel the thrill instead of seeing it secondhand, and imagining how it feels just to be there, to be in that position.

Feel, not fabricate.

I need to stop being a maladaptive day-dreamer. I think it's time to create my own reality rather than drifting off down the

rabbit hole.

But I can't - I can't stop watching.

Has anyone checked the time?