

What's UP

STFA LKKC English Newspaper

A Game Review on Among Us

By Chan Po Ching 5B (4) , Wong Yuk Tung 5C (28)



Before talking about my own experience with the game, let me first introduce it to people who aren't familiar with it. *Among Us* is an online multiplayer social deduction game developed and published by Innersloth and released in 2018. Inspired by the party game *Werewolf* and the science fiction horror film *The Thing*, the game went viral in August 2020. In response to this sudden and unexpected surge of popularity, in September, Innersloth announced that the sequel originally planned for *Among Us* was cancelled. They decided to work on improving *Among Us* and modify its core code. There are a total of 4 maps in the game, namely the Skeld, MIRA Hq (headquarter), Polus and the Airship (in chronological order of release).

RULES

The rules of the game, according to the wiki fan page for *Among Us*, are as follows:

Upon starting, players are randomly assigned to one of the two types of roles, Crewmates or Imposters. There can be a total of ten players in a game, with up to three Imposters. The Imposters' objective is to eliminate players and sabotage using either aggressive, defensive, or passive tactics before the Crewmates complete all of their tasks or discover everyone's true identity. The Crewmates' objective is to complete all of their tasks, designed based on the real life tasks of an astronaut in the International Space Station, while figuring out who the Imposters are. All players have to discuss who the imposters are when a dead body is found or an emergency meeting is called. There, players can cast a vote on the one they suspect and the one with most votes will be cast out.

So after hearing about the game, I decided to download it on my phone and give it a try. In my first few games, I was assigned as a crewmate and my team always won before I realised what had happened. In the fourth or fifth game, I started moving to different spots to complete the tasks once we entered the spaceship. I was

trying to enter the oxygen room (it was a bit difficult to control at first and I had trouble getting into the rooms, but it got better after a few games) while all of a sudden, I was stabbed from behind and murdered in cold blood. It was frustrating seeing your fellow crewmates keep voting against the innocents, but somehow they managed to win in the end. Despite not making any contribution, it felt good to understand what who going on and take part in the game (and I secretly enjoyed being a ghost as it allowed me to move around quickly, even through the walls).

It was another story being the imposter though. Killing, sabotaging and acting natural at the same time was overwhelming for me. I was wandering around just to look for a target, kill a crew and find a way to escape as soon as possible. I was lucky enough to not to be suspected in the first discussion, yet an emergency meeting was held right after that and I was voted for being too suspicious. Though my first time being an imposter was a big failure with only two kills, it was more enjoyable being an imposter than being a crewmate.

In conclusion,

What I like about the game:

- Short waiting time due to its huge popularity
- Good game rules customization (Maps, number of imposters, speed of players , etc.)
- Easy tasks for both crewmates and imposters (tasks can be done within a single press of a button)
- Players can continue the game as a ghost after being killed
- Moderate length of each round (~5 - 10mins)

What I don't like about the game:

- Forcible quick chat function for players under 13 or those who don't log in hinder discussion
- Inactive or incorporating players are common which affect the gaming experience

Background

A lot of us play *Among Us* but few know its background story. That's why I decided to do some research on it. I'll focus on the Skeld, a spaceship carrying the crewmates on its way to Polus, which has been infiltrated by the imposters. We do not know if the crewmates are human, as they have a different anatomy (a single large bone), they drink through osmosis and they are merely a metre tall, according to Innersloth. We only know that they work for MIRA, an earth organisation conducting research on outer space environment and the owner of the Skeld and the planetary base in Polus. On the other hand, the imposters are parasitic shapeshifting aliens coming from a different planet (theories say that it's Polus). During the events of *Among Us*, the MIRA headquarters have been evacuated due to an abundance of imposters. Imposters are also found on the Airship, where rounds of battle between players happen. It is therefore assumed that the alien Imposters have already infiltrated Earth. Innersloth also hinted that the *Among Us* universe is connected to Henry Stickmin, a game created by one of the co-founders of Innersloth. For example, Polus was named after the Henry Stickmin character Polus Petrovich, who won the sweepstakes and got to name a planet after himself. Another example is that the Airship (the fourth map) looks very similar to the one owned by the toppat clan, the antagonist of the Henry Stickman.

Overall, the game is fun and easy to play. It also provides a way to socialise amidst social distancing. I think it's worth playing even for those who don't play video games or social deduction games. It won't disappoint you.

Credit: Wikipedia and Among Us wiki fan page

The British Royal Family and the Megxit Deal

By Chan Ho Wing 5A (2) , Chan Ching Yin 5A (1)

In the summer of 2016, Meghan Markle, an American actress and divorcee, and Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex met each other on a blind date arranged by a mutual friend in London. That was the first time they met, and they soon got married in 2018, where Meghan Markle became the Duchess of Sussex. After their son, Archie Mountbatten-Windsor was born the next year, the couple announced their decision to step back as senior members of the royal family and moved to Canada (later to Southern California). This was when the term 'Megxit' (Meghan exit) widely spread on social media and started spawning various Internet memes.

Living in luxury palaces, having expensive cars and clothes and never having to worry about money.... Shouldn't this be the best thing someone can ever dream of? Why would the couple give them all up? There were various rumors about why they stepped down from royal duties. Some said that the life they led in the royal family was actually unhappy, while some said the pressure from the media was too much for them to bear.

'We have continued to put on a brave face – as so many of you can relate to – I cannot begin to describe how painful it has been' written by Harry in the statement posted on the Sussex web.

Several newspapers claimed that the choice of stepping down was actually influenced by Harry's mother, Diana's tragic death in the year 1997. Diana died in a car crash when evading the paparazzi in Paris. Walking behind his mother's coffin at the funeral ceremony, the then 11-year-old Harry learnt the hard way about how cruel media could be. Meanwhile, the media storm towards Meghan had gone out of control. Tabloids covering her ethnicity, unsuccessful marriage, feminist mindset and even minor issues such as the way she smiled or the way she waved her hand were all over the internet. All the attention drawn by the media forced Harry to withdraw from royal duties and pursue a free life outside the palace. In his statement, he said, 'Because my deepest fear is history repeating itself. I've seen what happens when someone I love is commoditized to the point that they are no longer treated or seen as a real person. I lost my mother and now I watch my wife falling victim to the same powerful forces.' Harry was not only doing this for Meghan, but was also doing it for his mother, who was never protected the same way.

'Every single time I see a camera,
Every single time I hear a click,
Every single time I see a flash,
It takes me straight back.' ----- Prince Harry

But it seemed that that's not the whole story. In March 2021, Harry admitted that the actual reason for leaving the palace would be the lack of support from the royal family. 'The press is relentless, and the firm was not protecting them.' Facing numerous tabloids about the rancidity or Meghan's background, the royal family did not provide protection for her, forcing them to take action. Meghan said in the interview with Oprah, 'They (the royal family) were willing to lie to protect other members of the family, but they were not willing to tell the truth to protect me and my husband.' One of the pivotal issues would be the news 'Meghan Markle making her sister-in-law Kate Middleton cry', to which Meghan denied and claimed that Kate was the one making her cry. She added, Kate had apologized and no ill would be between them. However the institution did not speak for them nor deny any of the untrue news, which made the couple feel isolated.



After stepping down from their royal duties, the couple have been financially cut off by the royal family. Without the financial help, the couple must 'find another way out' for their living. It is said that they have signed a deal with Netflix to produce films and series. With their new deal, their priority will be creating programs that resonate with their values and highlight social issues. 'Our focus will be on creating content that informs but also gives hope,' Meghan and Harry told The New York Times in an interview. 'As new parents, making inspirational family programmers' is also important to us.' The couple have also signed on as speakers with Harry Walker Agency, the global speaker's bureau that represents a range of celebrities and power brokers from former President Bill Clinton and Barack Obama to former first lady Michelle Obama and football star Tom Brady. They are expected to focus their public speaking engagements on social justice issues and mental health. Early in March of 2020, Times reported that the Duchess of Sussex has signed a voiceover deal with Disney to benefit the wildlife conservation charity Elephants Without Borders.

It is certainly a bold move for the couple. Time will tell if Harry and Meghan have made the correct decision. But their story certainly proves that there are things in life that are worth chasing beyond a fancy lifestyle.

Scavenger Hunt Story about Easter — New dawn, new day, new life

By Ling Tsz Shuen 4A (21) , Yan Ming Sum 4A (30)

Iowa's eyes watered as he yawned loudly for the 100th time today. 'This job is deadly,' he murmured while looking at his deadly serious colleagues typing nonsense for a report. Regarding the fact that his boss was in a bad mood today, he kept his head down.

When work finally let out, Iowa received a call. 'Are you heading home now? Do you remember what day today is?' squealed his kids.

'Um...It must be your birthday or a really special day,' he tried not to show that he was tired and indifferent to what was going on.

'How dare you forget? It's Easter. The day to rejoice and be thankful for our work, life and love,' the kids explained with excitement.

Iowa had longed for tranquility and wealth in his life. However, looking back at his past and all those years, he wasn't satisfied with how much he had achieved. He was still at the same position as he was 10 years ago, earning the same amount of salary and living in the same teeny-weeny house. Failure, poverty and rejection were his adult life in a nutshell. He was more than mortified to live such a life, not to mention spend time dreaming about Easter eggs, chocolate and bunnies. He had met enough people who were hollow and detrimental.

Walking towards the bus station, Iowa heard a soft and desperate whine. He followed the sound into a small road. An abandoned puppy was sitting inside a cardboard box with a note saying 'I am broke currently so I can no longer feed my dog. Sorry about that.' Iowa sighed, his mind started to flash back to the day when he lost his job. It was not only the day his second child came to this ghastly world, but also the day he used up the last penny inside his pocket. 'Hunger hurts, but not as much as my family's cry of despair,' he signed again. He was not like coal miners who snatch, seize and snag prey from mother nature solely for their own advantage as if they were hyenas.

In order to pay for his family's expenses, Iowa did whatever he could for a living. From a housekeeper to a waiter, then a taxi driver.....the list went on and on. No matter how many people wanted to break him down to dust or use the sharpest words to cut him down, nothing was able to block this father's heart to give the best to his children. He was not afraid of being dismissed from his job or job applications got turned down as he had a responsibility. With great power, came great responsibility, he soon became unbreakable. Idleness and laziness wasn't able to shoot him down whatsoever.

'Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal and new life,' as people always say. May those mistakes be forgiven like a gust of cool breeze, wiping away all the guilt, misery and pain, bringing new fortune and faith for upcoming challenges. Besides, as Kate McGahan said, 'The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies.' Thus, this is what we should be grateful for inside our hearts no matter how life turns out to be.

More Fun Phrases!

By Mui Lok Ching 4C (21)

See if you can match the meanings to the right phrases. Then try to fill in the blanks after that!
(Answer below)

PHRASE	Meaning
1. credit where credit is due	A. to be willing to try anything to improve a difficult or unsatisfactory situation, even if it has little chance of success
2. lightning never strikes twice	B. you should praise someone who deserves it, although you might dislike some things about them
3. to err on the side of caution	C. it is unlikely that something bad or unusual will happen to the same person twice
4. to clutch at straws	D. to be especially careful rather than taking a risk or making a mistake
5. throw caution to the wind/winds	E. to do something without worrying about the risk or negative results

Answer 1B 2C 3D 4A 5E

- With the car jammed in traffic and his bladder filling up, he started_____. He talked with Siri, hoping she can shift his attention.
- _____ and going outside anyway is the last thing you want to do during a typhoon.
- Believing that_____, he continued to ride his bicycle after crashing into a tree.
- Cockroaches aren't the most lovable creature in the world but, _____, I only clean my room because of them.
- I was not sure which answer was correct so I _____ and put all answers.

Answers

- clutching at straws
- Throwing caution to the wind
- lightning never strikes twice
- credit where credit is due
- erred on the side of caution

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