

Monologue Mania!

“Virtual Cooking, Anyone?” from *Ups and Downs*

By Rebecca Wright

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Perspective One: You are happy that your parents finally bought you a gaming system but unhappy about the fact that it came with a bunch of rules.

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So I was really excited when my parents finally gave in and bought me a gaming system for my birthday. For years, I have heard every reason why families should not have video games in their house. My father’s excuse is that kids don’t play outside enough as it is. He says there’s no way he’s buying something that will encourage me to plant myself even longer in front of the TV. My mother worries that it will hurt my eyes or maybe give me carpal tunnel syndrome because of the repetitive motion. She’s heard that kids are getting that now from all the video game playing. Really, I never thought they’d give in. But here I am with a brand new gaming system, and I should be happy. Actually given the years of begging, I should be more than happy. I should be ecstatic. I would be too, if it weren’t for all these rules attached to it! Rule number one: I can only play after all of my homework is done. Okay, that one is fair enough. I can always rush and get it done fast. Rule number two: I can only play for one hour on school nights and for two hours on weekends. I can accept the school-night rule—I don’t have that much time after my homework anyway—but only two hours on the weekend? That’s not fair! I’ll barely get started and have to put it away! I have friends that play all day long on the weekend!

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“Virtual Cooking, Anyone?” continued

Rule number three: I cannot play video games when we have family over, like my aunt or my grandparents. While that may not sound so bad, you don't know my family! They are always coming to visit. Rule number four: I can only play E-rated games. You know, the games rated for everyone. And absolutely *no* games with violence. Now that's just insane. Do you want to know what that leaves? Cooking. Dancing. Cheering. Drawing. Maybe a little car racing, but I bet my mom thinks that car wrecks are too violent. They can't be serious about this one! I'll be too embarrassed to even tell my friends I got a system! Can you see me asking, “Who's up for some virtual cooking?” What are my parents trying to do to me?