

Is [X] a waste of time?

Post by “Susan Hill” of October 1, 2020 at 11:11 AM

Excellent reply's, all. I would only add, be careful of sacrificing “a bird in the hand”.

The pleasure you derive from your gaming is a sure-thing. How lucky you are to have found such a consistently enjoyable activity! You imagine that perhaps you should try other activities that might make you appear or feel more accomplished, but such ambitions can be a terrible trap. Learning to play an instrument, for example:

Three years ago I became afflicted with envy for people who had such a skill, and so embarked upon learning the bagpipes. Now I have invested a huge amount of time, energy, and money into gaining some proficiency, and I have barely had a moments pleasure from it.

Each piece of music I have to memorize soon becomes an object of abject hatred for having to study and practice it ad nauseum, no matter how much I liked it at first. Practice is a terrible chore, as most musicians concede. I won't even get into the performance anxiety of being in a competition band.

But now I am stuck! Having invested so much, it seems a terrible waste and failure to quit. How could I let down my teachers? I also keep hoping that at some point it will surely become more pleasant...

Point is, we must do our calculus. Are you sure the musician you envy is happier practicing his/her instrument than you are playing your video games? Are you sure you would be? Ambition can be so deceptive.

I say, value your pleasure. It is not a waste, but the victor's laurel already won.