

# To Samus Aran, the first female videogame protagonist

When you flew across a galaxy decorated  
with gender-neutral language and white specs  
to save the planet Zebes in 1986,  
millions of teenage boys grew frustrated.

When you removed your helmet at the end of the game,  
I bet they had to drop their controllers  
in their laps to hide boners  
as pixels of blonde fell over your female frame.

Gamers call you a feminist, but you're not fooling me.  
I found every missile, energy tank and super power,  
and I played through all 435 screens.  
After a day of fighting Metroids you still desire  
to strip to an 8-bit bikini if I can beat  
Mother Brain in less than an hour.

Robert Wells