

Road Runner

Ahead the freeway stretches out like a smooth black river, four lanes in either direction. Traffic speeds past. Going back isn't an option, and I know if I wait too long Eagle will catch me. If I can navigate this stretch, there's a safe island of grass on the other side. I can do this, I remind myself. I'm a seasoned professional. It's all part of the game.

I plunge headlong into the stream of traffic. Cars flashing past all around me. Rushing across the first three lanes, I sidestep right, saving myself by the barest of margins from a removal truck, horn blaring. Sprinting the last few steps, I recover on the grass and check the money. It's more than I've ever seen, but I can't let it distract me now. I must keep moving, or Eagle will be on me.

Beyond the railway line, lies a bright blue river. If I can get across, I might make it. I hesitate a moment and the railway crossing lights begin flashing. I can't afford to linger. I race alongside the train until it passes, diving across the tracks to the river's edge, but there's nothing to ferry me across. Out of the corner of my eye I can see Eagle swooping. There's no choice. This is where my life ends. I take one last step, falling into the river, immediately slipping beneath the pale blue water. Game over.

Fortunately for me, I've got 2 lives left...and a new high score.