

## Game for 3 or more Players

# BOTTICELLI

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It shall probably always be a mystery why a game based on two initials should be named for someone known by a single name. (Although some play with a single initial, this makes the game too difficult for most; names with three initials make it too easy.)

The object is to determine the name of a famous person by asking questions. What makes Botticelli unique and fun is that fruitful questions can only be asked by a player who can think of a person with identical initials that the answerer does not recognize.

It really is not as confusing as it sounds. Let's say that a player (the thinker) thinks of Steven King and announces "My initials are S K." The next player could then ask, "Are you the director of *2001: A Space Odyssey*?" If the thinker understands the reference he would reply, "No, I am not Stanley Kubrick." Then, the next guesser would have to come up with another reference to another famous person, saying, "Do you think screaming is funny?" If the thinker does not understand the reference to Sam Kinison, he says so (or guesses wrong).

This allows the guesser (after revealing the person he had in mind) to ask another question that can be answered yes or no, such as "Are you male?" or "Are you a fictional character?" As long as the answers are "yes," another yes/no question may be asked. When a question is answered "no," it becomes the next player's turn to ask a question which references another famous person. Once a player guesses correctly, the round is over, and another player thinks of a new person or character.

A correct guess would play out like this: "Do you write horror novels?" "Yes, I am Steven King."

### Winning

Typically, the play is engrossing enough without having a winner. Players could track the number of questions and award the prize to whomever's name lasted longest, but the game loses interest if the names are too obscure. ■

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