Would a game, by any other name, be as fun?

While English departments continue to debate whether Shakespeare indeed wrote the dozens of plays and 154 sonnets to his name, Simply Fun’s board game Do You Know Shakespeare? is unquestionably fun and educational. This trivia game about the Bard can make for an engaging way to help students review in a course on Shakespeare, but it also has the potential to be a rowdy drinking game for Shakespearean scholars.

The game consists of a display tray that holds Q&A cards, book-stack-shaped pawns, and shilling tokens. A game consists of five rounds, and in each round, players read a trivia question and six possible answers, then place their pawns on the answers that they believe to be accurate. When the true and false answers are revealed, players receive a shilling for each of the correct answers. The richest player at the end of five rounds wins.

Questions address Shakespeare’s life and his work, as well as other works that he influenced. Some examples are “What are the names of Shakespeare’s children?” “Which Shakespearean quotations are correct?”, and “Which songs have references to Shakespeare?”

The game is a challenge, even for those who hold an undergraduate degree in English and took courses on Shakespeare. That being said, this game is an excellent tool for students who are preparing for Shakespeare class midterms and finals. Not only does it test one’s knowledge, but it also teaches the players the right answers. Repeat players can potentially learn the correct answers to all 68 questions in the game.