

“Am I Famous?”

A party game inspired by Naomi Shihab Nye’s poem “Famous” honoring the interrelationships between each other’s objects and selves.

Setup:

- Group video chat with three or more players.
- Each player should be in a location that contains grabbable objects, and has a tie to the player. (i.e. this game would be hard for a player who is outside in a park)

Terminology:

Hopeful - Player who leads that round and chooses the “Hopeful Object”.

Hopeful Object - The object wants to be famous.

Fan - The first player who found a “Fan Object”. (ie. multicolor hello kitty pen)

Fan Object - An inter-related object to which the “Hopeful Object” is famous. (ie. sparkly diary)

Skeptic - Any player who does not believe that the Fan is actually holding the Fan Object.

Notes:

- Speak as poetically as possible (you may go beyond the example text)
- Inter-relationships between hopeful and fan objects can be as literal or metaphorical as the group decides. (It is a poem after all.)

Gameplay (Choose a player to start as the Hopeful)

1. **Debut** - The Hopeful chooses an object from their location to be the “hopeful object”, holds the “hopeful object” up to the camera, and asks:
“I am but a [hopeful object], am I famous too?”
Ex. hopeful object = “a thrifted mug, half full of tea.”
2. **Reception** - The other Players try to find an object within their own location that is a “fan object” to which the “hopeful object” is famous too.
 - a. The first other player to find a fan object ***keeps the fan object offscreen*** and becomes the Fan by declaring what they have.
“But of course, you are famous to I, the [fan object].”
Ex. fan object = “thrifted coaster, craving for your heat”
**If the group feels that the declared Fan Object doesn’t actually interrelate, continue the Reception process until a new Fan declares itself.*
 - b. If nobody steps up as a Fan, the Hopeful’s turn ends with a wish
“I want be famous to [desired fan object] for what I could do.”
Ex. desired fan object = “ tea bag full of aromatics ”
Skip to the next round, with a new player taking over Step 1.
3. **Awards** - The rest of the group has an opportunity to become a Skeptic and question whether the Fan actually has the fan object offscreen.
“A lovely sentiment, but is one really there?”

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- a. If there are no Skeptics, the Hopeful and the Fan both receive a point.
 - b. If there are Skeptics
 - i. If the Fan can IMMEDIATELY reveal the fan object: all Skeptics lose a point, the Hopeful receives a point, and the Fan receives a point.
 - ii. If the Fan can not reveal the fan object, the Fan loses a point, any Skeptic gains a point, and the Hopeful receives 0 points.
4. Next Verse - (If someone has five points, skip to Step 5, the Final verse)
 Proceed to the next round with a new Hopeful based on the following:
- a. If there was a match, the Fan is the new Hopeful.
 - b. If there was a successful Challenge, the first Skeptic is the new Hopeful.
 - c. Otherwise the Hopeful chooses another player to be the new Hopeful.

5. Final verse - At the end of the round, if 5 points is reached by any player, that player initiates a final verse by focusing on themselves.

“I am but a [winner’s name or description], am I famous too?”

Ex. “self-deprecating indie game designer”

Any other player can respond, complimenting their relationship to the winner.

“But of course, you are famous to I, the [other player’s relation].”

Ex. “the friend made happy by playing your games”

In closing, the winner emits an ending message.

“Fame surrounds us, even in the little things. Not because they did anything spectacular, but because I never forgot what they could do.”

Original Text: Famous by Naomi Shihab Nye

<p>The river is famous to the fish.</p> <p>The loud voice is famous to silence, which knew it would inherit the earth before anybody said so.</p> <p>The cat sleeping on the fence is famous to the birds watching him from the birdhouse.</p> <p>The tear is famous, briefly, to the cheek.</p>	<p>The idea you carry close to your bosom is famous to your bosom.</p> <p>The boot is famous to the earth, more famous than the dress shoe, which is famous only to floors.</p> <p>The bent photograph is famous to the one who carries it and not at all famous to the one who is pictured.</p>	<p>I want to be famous to shuffling men who smile while crossing streets, sticky children in grocery lines, famous as the one who smiled back.</p> <p>I want to be famous in the way a pulley is famous, or a buttonhole, not because it did anything spectacular, but because it never forgot what it could do.</p>
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