

Living with Fences: Talk till You Block

By Cliff Watson, May 7, 2019

Our players, Ding and Mergred, are on opposite sides of a fence; later, a scorekeeper is heard, and Feng appears with Ding. A transcription of their conversation follows. Players should take two pieces of paper and speak through them as detailed in the instructions. Points are scored as follows: physical injury, minus one point; faux pas, minus two points; dig that hits, plus one point; opponent retreats, plus two points; entice more participants, plus three points.

Ding holds pages in plane of face with 1" gap in between, peering through the gap

DING: Heeeyyyyy Mergred.

Mergred looks up and holds the pages at arms' length with 1" gap in between, peering through the gap at Ding

MERGRED: Oh, hi Ding. How are you today?

DING: Doin' fine, oh so fine, my friend. So... time for a little yardwork?

MERGRED: Oh yeah, ha-ha, that's right. I need to plant these shrubs before they dry out in the pots.

DING: You mean like the shriveled plants along the side of your garage? [Scorekeeper: ONE POINT]

MERGRED: *Sigh*, yes, like that. I didn't get to those in time.

DING: No worries. Unless you're a plant. [Scorekeeper: MINUS TWO POINTS]

MERGRED: *Sigh, eye roll*. Thanks. [Scorekeeper: ONE POINT]

DING: Uh... yeah.... What are you planting?

MERGRED: These are gardenias. They'll have pretty white flowers.

DING: Sweeeet.

MERGRED: ... And over here I'm putting in a camelia.

DING: Where? Where?

Ding scoots back and forth looking through fence gaps.

MERGRED: Over to my right.

DING: Oh, yeah. Super. Pink is cool.

MERGRED: Oh yeah. What are you planting, Ding?

DING: I'm not sure. I was thinking of sequoias, but Feng says I've got delusions of grandeur.

Ding is looking up-up-up while he pushes the pages away from himself.

MEGRED: She may be on to something. Look, you should probably go for something a little more manageable to start. What about a vine maple? I've got one over here...

Ding jumps onto the fence – pages just below his chin.

DING: Where? Where?

Ding is unsteady, the pages are rattling.

MERGRED: ...They take hardly any care, and there are so many seed pods that you...

DING: AAhhhhh!

Ding falls off of the fence – pages shoot straight up as Ding goes straight down.

DING: Ooof! Ow, my face... *(continues moaning)* [Scorekeeper: MINUS ONE POINT]

MERGRED: Are you alright?

Mergred crouches down and looks through a few page gaps (moving her page/face back and forth carefully). Then she starts hopping up and down – pages go back and forth between in front of and below her face.

...Feng! Feng! Ding fell off of the fence!

Feng comes rushing in. [Scorekeeper: THREE POINTS FOR MERGRED]

FENG: Ah! Ding, what are you doing? What happened?!

DING: *(dazed)* I was just looking at plants. I think the fence is trying to kill me.

SCOREKEEPER: Decisive victory for Mergred: 4 points to minus 2. Game, set, match!

END