

Trivial Pursuit by Joy Hinckley

Characters: **Gina** (an Activities Officer)
Daniel (a young man)
Margaret, Joyce, Elsie and Rosemary (old ladies)

Setting: *A nursing home, afternoon. The old ladies are sitting in the lounge area of the home. Rosemary is snoozing, head on chest. Gina and Daniel enter.*

Gina Here we are, Daniel. This is our lounge and activities room. We really appreciate it when young people like you come and volunteer at the home. After a visit from a volunteer the residents always seem very chirpy. It really cheers them up.

Daniel I hope so.

Gina Good afternoon ladies...as I promised, here's Daniel, a new volunteer. He's a student at the university, and he's very generously offered to be your quizmaster for today's trivia quiz. Let's give Daniel a big welcome, shall we?

They all clap politely.

Daniel Thank you, ladies. And how are you today?

Ladies *(chorus together sweetly)* Good.

Gina *(aside to Daniel)* They're a little dotty, poor dears. But they do seem to enjoy the trivia. It gives them something to do.

Daniel Yes.

Gina Well, I'll love you and leave you then. I'll be back in a little while. Over to you, Daniel. *(Exits)*

Daniel OK, well, um...let's get straight into our trivia quiz shall we? *(reads from a set of cards he is holding)* Our first set of questions is Shakespeare knowledge. Did you all do Shakespeare at school?

Margaret Ooh, naughty boy. I never even saw one before I was married, never shook it even then.

Elsie They shake 'em about all over the place nowadays. I've seen some of them films on SBS.

Daniel Riiight....moving on. In which play do we find the character of Mark Antony?

Joyce Yes please.

Daniel Yes what?

Joyce I said please.

Daniel Yes, yes you did...I'm just not sure what you're asking for.

Joyce Didn't you just offer us a gin and tonic?

Daniel Sorry?

Elsie Sorry love, she's a bit deaf. (*Loudly*) Not gin and tonic, Joyce, Mark Antony.

Joyce Oh. Sorry Mark.

Margaret I've got a nephew called Mark.

Daniel Let's move onto the next question, eh?

Margaret (*over the top of Daniel's line*) He's a doctor. He said I needed a tonic. Not the kind you have with gin, though. Disgusting stuff.

Daniel OK. Um...in Hamlet, Ophelia talks about the language of flowers. She says "Here's rosemary, that's for..." – what?

Elsie Lamb.

Daniel No, in the language of flowers what does rosemary stand for?

Elsie Ooh, I don't remember. Wake up, Rosemary. What do you stand for?

Rosemary (*waking with a start*) What?

Elsie What do you stand for? It's one of the trivia questions.

Rosemary God Save the Queen? Is that the answer?

Daniel Actually, the answer is remembrance. Rosemary stands for remembrance. You know, like they wear sprigs of rosemary on Anzac Day.

Rosemary (*standing up to attention with something of a struggle*) Is it Anzac Day already? We've missed the Dawn Service.

Daniel We might skip the rest of the Shakespeare. What's next (*looks at cards*) ...um...here's one. Who wrote *War and Peace*?

Margaret Who's this Warren Pease? I thought your name was Mark.

Daniel No, it's a book. *War and Peace*. Who was the author?

Joyce I've got a grandson called Warren. He's got a band called Warren and the Rabbits.

Elsie I think I know who wrote *War and Peace*. It was Winston Churchill. "We will fight them on the beaches".

Daniel Very good. Let's try Baby Boomers trivia.

Rosemary Hee hee, he said bloomers.

Daniel Not bloomers, boomers.

Rosemary "Six white boomers, snow white boomers, Racing Santa Claus through the blazing sun. Six white boomers, snow white boomers, On his Australian run". You know, the older you get, the more time flies. It seems like it was only just Anzac Day.

Margaret Is the answer Rolf Harris?

Daniel Close enough. Next question. (*leafing through the cards a bit desperately*) Ah, here's one you'll know - who sang *White Christmas*?

Elsie My daughter makes that. Let me see. Well there's rice bubbles in it, for a start. And sultanas.

Rosemary And glace cherries. And that white stuff that clogs your arteries. Cobra.

Daniel Here's an easy one. Who painted the Mona Lisa?

Joyce Leonardo di Caprio.

Daniel Good. Next. Define "aardvark".

Margaret Never killed anybody.

Daniel What?

Margaret Aardvaark never killed anybody.

Elsie Don't know the meaning of hard work these days. My grandsons are always at this Yu-Gi-Oh. You gi oh, I gi oh

Rosemary (*to tune of Old McDonald*) Yu gi oogi oh, hoy!

Daniel is looking very desperate. Luckily, Gina returns.

Gina How are we going?

Daniel I think we're done for the day.

Gina Lovely! And will you be coming back next week?

Daniel makes a non-committal noise.

Gina How was that ladies? Did you have a good time?

Ladies (*sweetly*) Yes, thanks Gina. *They all applaud politely again.*

Gina (*showing Daniel out*) Thank you so much, Daniel. The ladies seem to have enjoyed that a lot. Let me show you out and we'll see you again next week...? (*they exit*)

Margaret (*getting up*) Who's for computer games?

Rosemary (*getting up*) Yay!

Elsie (*getting up*) I've got to go for a wee before I can Wii.

Joyce (*getting up*) I've got beer in my fridge! That'll make us wee!

All Whee!

They exit in high spirits.