



Bored Games

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Alex Trebek enters game show set and stands behind a podium facing two others where Donald Trump and Joe Biden stand, a giant Scrabble board displayed above them.

Alex: Good evening. The two leading presidential candidates have agreed to participate in a Scrabble-off in lieu of the traditional debate. It is hoped, by all, I'm sure, that this more structured setting will result in a more meaningful exchange of ideas.

Trump: I wouldn't trade any of my ideas for Sleepy Joe's. He has the worst ideas I've ever heard. The worst.

Biden: If they listened to me, this would have been Chutes and Ladders.

Trump: That's actually pretty good, though, Hungry Hungry Hippos would be better.

Alex: Gentlemen! You both said you were familiar with the rules of Scrabble and have played before. If there are any more debates, maybe you can play lawn darts. (looks at camera) I will not participate. (audience laughs).

(Biden mimes climbing ladder. Trump mimes throwing lawn dart at Biden)

Alex: (exasperated) Remember, gentlemen, the outcome requires strategy, not simply vocabulary.

Trump: Too bad. Everyone knows my vocabulary is . . . huge. Absolutely huge. It's the hugest.

Biden: (perplexed) Alex, I can't find my tiles.

Alex: The letters will be displayed on the touchscreen in front of you. You can rearrange them as needed with the touch of your finger. Then you drag your selection to the position on the board before you. It will all appear on the overhead display so the public can follow. We went over this in the practice run. Remember?

Joe: (smiling sheepishly) Oh, yeah! I remember now. I thought that was just one of those competency tests. Hand eye coordination and all that. What day it is. Who's president. That kind of stuff.

Trump: I'm on top of it, Alex. A lot like the bar top poker games at my casinos. All state of the art.

Alex: (looking at camera with a dubious smile) Great. Let's get started. Mr. President, you won the coin toss beforehand.

Trump: Of course I did. I'm not a loser.

Alex: Whatever you say. You go first.

(Electronic music plays as letters appear on overhead display. Buzzer sounds and Trump smirks triumphantly.)

Alex (sighing) Okay, so, what have we here?

Trump: Quidpro. So double letter on the Q, double word square, plus I used all my letters, that's gotta be at least a couple of hundred points.

Alex: (grimacing) I'm sorry, Mr. President, but that's not a word.

Trump: (combative) I use it all the time. You know, as in "Quidpro quo."

Biden: (smiling goofily) I got no problem with it. Kind of reminds me of the old Latin Mass. I'm a devout Catholic, you know. Been one all my life. Was an altar boy at Holy Rosary. Had a priest there, Father Callahan, nice fella but he had this wart on the side of his nose that looked like Eleanor Roosevelt. Hard drinkin' man. I remember one time—

Alex: (interrupting) Well, our judges say if it's okay with you, we'll accept it. That's 108 points. Good start.

Trump: Really? It's gotta be more like two hundred. I mean, double word, double letter on the Q.

Biden: Come on, man! They have a computer.

Trump: (lower lip protruding) Fine. It's fine. Whole things rigged anyway.

Alex: All right then. Your turn, Mr. Vice-president.

Biden: Good, 'cause it sets me up for this. (Music plays as letters appear on board. Buzzer sounds).

Alex: (squinting) Cornpop? (he looks to judges) I suppose that's acceptable.

Biden: (grinning) I would think so. Cornpop was a bad dude.

Trump: (shrugging) I got no problem with it.

Alex: (clenching hands) All right, then. Your turn, President Trump.

(Music plays as letters appear on board. Buzzer sounds).

Alex: (looking at board in horror) I'm sorry, Mr. President, but you can't remove letters once they are on the board. It's against the rules.

Trump: (smugly) I don't recall that being discussed before.

Alex: (looking at camera) I don't even know why I'm here.

Biden: I think it's because you're from Canada and it's a neuter country.

Alex: (annoyed) I think the word you're looking for is 'neutral' and Canada is an active NATO member. (Sighs). The important thing is Scrabble has some basic rules and you just can't do that.

Trump: (tilting head side to side) Maybe so, Trebek, but there is one thing I can do. (Pair of uniformed and armed ICE agents step up to flank Alex).

Alex: You would deport me over this?

Trump: (Shrugs) We'll see how it goes. (Pounds podium). Why the hell won't it let me add a P?

Biden: You can use a blank. It's like a wild card.

Trump: Owe you one, Sleepy Joe. You can have a free night at Mar-A-Lago when this is all over. You look like you could use the rest. Just don't soil the sheets or forget to wake up.

(Music plays as letters appear on board. Buzzer sounds).

Alex: (eyeing ICE agents nervously then squints at screen) So, you've just substituted a blank for the letter C and that represents the letter P?

Trump: (smiling proudly) You got it, Alex.

Alex: Pornpop? May I ask the meaning?

Trump: (speaking matter-of-factly) It's what you are when you knock up an adult film actress.

Alex: (turns to ICE agents, proffering wrists) Can you fellas drop me off at Niagara Falls? I'll see myself over the border.

CURTAIN