

Rochambeau Rumble

The stage is set with three pedestals, each with a spotlight shining on it. On the left is Rock, a solid and sturdy figure. In the middle is Paper, elegant and fluid. On the right is Scissors, sharp and sleek. The spotlight is always brightest on whomever is speaking, and dimmer on the other two actors. with a spotlight focusing on each character as they take turns speaking.

ANNOUNCER (off)

Gentlebeings - and not so Gentlebeings – welcome to this year's Rochambeau Rumble, where an intergalactic panel of players tries to win the ultimate game of Rock, Paper, Scissors. Let's meet them. Rock, who are you and where are you from?

ROCK:

Name's Thaaaj. From Tellarus. I work as a blaster in the flobutnum mines. Got a wife and a son who's gonna be a miner like me some day. (beat) I will crush the competition. (Rock holds his arm up, one hand in a fist.)

ANNOUNCER (off):

Alright, next is Paper. Tell us about yourself.

PAPER:

I'm Laihaina from Serenity, and I'm a schoolteacher in the Interplanetary School on Novelus Two. I don't want to boast, but I'm pretty sure I've got my competitors all wrapped up. (Paper extends one arm in front of her, her hand flat like paper.)

ANNOUNCER (off):

Well good luck to you, Paper. I hope your students are watching tonight and cheering you on. Scissors, you're up.

SCISSORS:

I'm Aelak of Fiskar. I'm a cardio-thoracic resident, and I've never lost a patient. I plan to cut through the competition. (He extends his arm to the side, his hand in a scissors position.)

ANNOUNCER (nervous laughter):

Well, that's great, Scissors. Thanks for that. (recovers) Audience, the stage is set, the players all seem pretty confident. (shifts to a Monster Truck announcer voice): Let's get ready to RUMBLE! (beat) Round one begins now. Players... take your marks.

ROCK:

Alright you two, it's time to settle this once and for all. I'm going to slam you into the dirt.

SCISSORS:

Bring it on Rock. At the end of this you'll be rubble.

PAPER:

Boys, boys, this is a game. You shouldn't let your emotions rule you. Make yourselves blank.

ANNOUNCER (off):

One, two, three.

The lights go out and then come back up.
Each character throws out their gesture, and winner is based on speed.

ROCK:

Solid and unyielding, rock crushes scissors!

SCISSORS:

You may have been quicker on the draw, this time, but remember, Paper can still cover rock.

Rock: Fair point, Scissors. Fair point.

ANNOUNCER (off):

Round one goes to Rock.

The players reset for the next round.

Ready? One, two, three.

Once more, the players throw out their gestures.
This time Scissors is fastest.

SCISSORS:

Hah! Scissors cuts through paper. Victory is mine.

PAPER (amused):

Nicely done, if a little flashy, Scissors. But it's only round two.

ANNOUNCER (off):

And Scissors scores! That leaves only Paper without points on the board. Let's go to round three!

The lights go out again, but this time when they come on, it's Paper who has won..

PAPER

Oh, I feel like flapping in the breeze. Fold me into an airplane and let me soar. I won. Haha! I told you Paper would cover Rock.

ROCK:

Yeah, yeah, you won. So what? Now we're in a three-way tie.

SCISSORS

That's one way to look at it. The other way is that it's anybody's game now. (softly) Good job, Paper.

PAPER:

(softly) Thanks, Scissors. (louder) I play to win. Never doubt that.

ANNOUNCER (off):

Wow, what a game! Gentle Ones, we've got a three-way tie going into the final round. Since all of our contestants are playing on behalf of a charity, let's find out who will get a nice donation this week.

Paper, why don't you go first?

PAPER:

I'm playing on behalf of [Paper for Water](#) – we trade origami designs for donations to a fund that helps provide clean water to places where it's most needed.

ANNOUNCER (off):

Water is important, absolutely. Scissors, how about you? Who are you representing?

SCISSORS:

I'm playing for Medecins Sans Frontieres – also known as [Doctors Without Borders](#). We provide lifesaving care around the galaxy to people who are in danger zones or caught in wars, and we also bear witness to what we see.

ANNOUNCER (off):

Admirable work. Rock, who are you playing for?

ROCK:

I'm playing for HALO. As much as I love blasting tunnels into rocks and extracting ore, I detest that other kind of mine – land mines. [The Halo Trust](#) helps clear land mines and help the communities they affect.

ANNOUNCER:

Another noble cause. Thank you. (shifts tones) Alright, we have a tied board, so who will win this weeks Rochambeau Rumble. Will it be Paper, who floats like a paper butterfly and stings like an origami bee? Will it be Scissors who cuts down the competition? Or will it be ROCK, pounding his way to victory? Let's find out!

ROCK:

Decision time. Let the best player win!

PAPER:

Bring it on, boys!

SCISSORS:

Let's do this!

ANNOUNCER (off):

Ready... set... go!

The lights go out again and then come up as before.
Each player throws out their gestures.
This time Rock Wins.

ANNOUNCER:

And it's ROCK for the win! Congratulations to our Rock player Thaaj of Tellarus. Your anti-land mine fund will increase by twenty-five thousand this week.

ROCK (roars triumphantly)

Rock Smash! Hahahahahaha! I win!

ROCK moves to center stage.
PAPER and SCISSORS join him.

PAPER:

Well played, Rock. You earned the win.

SCISSORS:

Indeed. Congratulations. You're a true champion. Your wife and son will be proud.

ROCK:

Thank you both. It was an honor to compete with you.

As confetti falls from the rafters, the three competitors link arms and take a bow.

ANNOUNCER:

Competitors are not compensated for their appearances, but the second and third place players' charities will each receive a donation of five thousand. If you think you have what it takes to win Rochambeau Rumble, please send a video audition tape to our studios. Thank you and goodnight.

Blackout.

Note: The charities mentioned in this play are real. Please consider donating to one or more of them.