

Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1152: Oops? You do it again — enter a previous contest

Plus the winning TankaWanka 5-line poems on the news



You don't need a time machine, just a handy index we provide for the past year's contests you can reenter for Week 1152. (Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers December 3 [Follow @PatMyersTWP](#)

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning TankaWanka five-line poems about the news)

Didn't get your paper on July 23? Did you miss the deadline for Week 1105? Did the Empress rob you again for Weeks 1120, 1121 and 1122? Stop complaining already — here's your chance to do something about it: our annual retrospective contest. **This week: Enter any Style Invitational contest from Week 1098 through Week 1148, except for Week 1101, last year's do-over.** Use as few or many contests as you like, up to 25 entries total. You may refer to events that have occurred since the contest was published (exception: the Week 1105 obit poems should still be about people who died in 2014); for contests that ask you to use that week's paper, use Dec. 3-14 of this year. You may submit an entry you've already sent, but remember that it's the same old lady judging them. Where to find all these previous contests? There's a link to each one at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational (click on "More News" at the bottom of the page to see the oldest few). You can

also see all the contests on Loser Elden Carnahan's Master Contest List at nrars.org. After you read the instructions of a contest you want to enter, don't forget to check the results as well (usually four weeks later) to be sure you're not repeating an inking entry.

Winner gets the [Inkin' Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place, just in time to be several weeks late for Hanukkah, a giant inflatable dreidel, donated by Loser Diane Wah. It's actually sort of round, so if it lands on the wrong side, you can discreetly nudge it to a better letter.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for [Loser Mug](#), the older-model "[This Is Your Brain on Mugs](#)" mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" [Grossery Bag](#). Honorable mentions get one of our brand-new Loser magnets, "[Magnet Dum Laude](#)" or "[Falling Jest Short](#)." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). Email entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday night, Dec. 14; results published Jan. 3 (online Dec. 31 or maybe 30). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1152" in your email subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Danielle Nowlin; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jeff Shirley. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow [@StyleInvite](https://twitter.com/StyleInvite) on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



Be gelty, gelty, gelty with a beach ball-like inflatable dreidel, this week's second prize. (Pat Myers/The Washington Post)

[And the results of the Style Invitational contest announced four weeks ago . . .](#)

It's a tanka gas: The top TankaWanka news poems

In Week 1148 we presented our second annual contest for TankaWanka poems on the news. The TankaWanka — a form the Empress named so nobody could accuse us of doing it wrong — is a variation on tanka, a classic Japanese poetry form. Like tanka, the TW has five lines of 5-7-5-7-7 syllables (like a haiku that forgot to stop), but it also contains at least one rhyme.

4th place:

Ben Carson believes Egyptian pyramids were used by biblical Joseph

Carson: Pyramids

Were for the storage of grain.

Evidence for this:

They're sealed against the outside.

Much like Dr. Carson's brain?

(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

3rd place:

Coywolf, coyote-wolf hybrid, sees population boom

Wolf, in search of mate,

Struck out, then said, "You know what?

Coyotes look great!"

Fairy tale changes wryly

When Riding Hood meets Wile E. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

2nd place and the "Jewjitsu" T-shirt plus Christian-themed jellybeans:

Nationals lose manager choice over too-low offer

"Bud Black is our guy!

He can run our pitching staff!"

But they made a gaffe

With their offer so mulish—

Penny-wise and mound-foolish. (Perry Beider, Silver Spring, Md.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

Google self-driving car pulled over for driving too slowly, impeding traffic

California fuzz

Stopped a car, and found it was

Driving by itself.

Gave a warning, didn't cite.

Need I say the car was white?

(Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

PRO-PAIN TANKA: HONORABLE MENTIONS

Christian groups protest lack of Christmas symbols on Starbucks cups

Time to get riled up!

Hang a plain red Starbucks cup

On the highest bough,

And have yourself a merry

Little War on Christmas now.

(Nan Reiner)

San Diego SeaWorld ends killer-whale shows but keeps whales

Folks cry: "Free Shamu!"

SeaWorld has a different view.

Stubborn, they say no:

"How could we, in good conscience,

Let eleven killers go?"

(Beverley Sharp)

Trump calls Mexican immigrants “rapists”

“Sending their rapists”

Makes it clear, for goodness’ sake,

That Donald Trump’s yen

Is to be the prez who’ll make

America hate again.

(Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Carson’s home features a large double portrait

We thought the Donald

Possessed the biggest ego

Of them all, but then

This painting came to seize us:

It pictures Ben with Jesus.

(Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

Inclusion in GOP debates depends on latest poll

Poll ranking dictates

Which of umpteen candidates

Make the next debates,

Based on this week’s ups and downs.

Open car; reshuffle clowns.

(Nan Reiner)

“Star Wars: Episode VII”

I. “The Force Awakens”!

All of geekdom rejoices.

As we revisit

A galaxy that’s far far,

Let us hope there’s no Jar Jar.

(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

II. “The Force Awakens”:

A movie for which we’ll queue.

For Disney, huge sums.

And in handy Yoda comes

When verse rhyming try we do. (George-Ann Rosenberg, Washington)

Former Russian official found dead in Dupont Circle hotel

Could be verry bad

If you get on outs with Vlad.

You haf “heart attack.”

This case, upon scrutiny,

Looking very Putiny. (Nan Reiner)

Asian leaders meet

China’s Xi Jinping

And Taiwan’s Ma Ying-Jeou met;

There should be an ad:

“Spacious meeting room to let —

The historic Ma-Xi pad.”

(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

Pitcher insists on finishing World Series game, loses it

Matt Harvey, Mets ace,

Demands, “I’ll pitch the ninth frame

For a complete game!”

Soon the game, Mets fans could see,

Was complete, over, *finis*.

(Brendan Beary)

Politicians exploit Paris attacks

Carnage in Paris

Leaves us sad and dejected

Except for a few

Asking the age-old question:

Can this get me elected?

(Frank Mann, Washington)

Water discovered on Mars

Evidence showing

There’s liquid water flowing

On the planet Mars

Has made scientists zealous —

And Californians jealous.

(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

“Gum Wall” gets a cleaning

Have you heard the news?

Seattle has a problem:

A sticky issue —

On a wall, not a tissue.

More gum control laws needed! (Andrea Dewhurst, Lynn, Mass., a First Offender)

George H.W. Bush criticizes Cheney, Rumsfeld in biography

George Bush the first, you

Paterfamiliously,

And biliously,

Trashed two top aides to Dubya —

Only now do they trubya?

(Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

New baby panda

The National Zoo

Pulled the new panda handler

Aside to warn her

That nobody — NOBODY! —

Puts Bei Bei in the corner.

(Chris Doyle)

Feminist Germaine Greer rants that sex change surgery doesn't make a man a woman*

So says Germaine Greer:

“You can lop off your penis,

And good luck, my dear,

But, no matter your keenness,

You're not a woman, I fear.”

(Michael Rolfe, Cape Town, South Africa, a First Offender) [**Greer actually used [much cruder language](#) in her rant*]

D.C. rated the “snobbiest city on the East Coast”

[Look](#) – some new website

Gave D.C. a top-10-ranked

Snooty ratio!

San Francisco ranks first, though . . .

(Left-Coasters. What do THEY know?) (Nan Reiner)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Dec. 7: our contest to rant at a rhymes-with-“glassbowl.” See bit.ly/invite1151.

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