

Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1254: Inkorporation — a change-a-letter contest

Plus the winning poems featuring words from particular years



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers November 16, 2017 [Email the author](#)

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning "year-poems")

Untie Anne's Pretzels: So soft they come undone. (John Drummond)

Bloomingdale's: For great deals on irregular fashions. (Valerie Matthews)

Inko's: Documents copied by scribes while you wait. (Craig DuBose)

This week's contest, suggested by 104-time Loser Matt Monitto, is one we've never done specifically before, though it's firmly in the tradition of so many "change-a-letter" Style Invitational contests: **Change the name of a present or past business, store or agency (not just a product) by adding one letter, deleting one letter, transposing two letters, or substituting one letter for another**, as in the examples above, which got ink in various Invite contests over the years.

Submit entries at this website: wano.st/enter-invite-1254 (all lowercase)

NEW EXHIBITION

**AAM @ 60:
The Diamond
Exhibition II**

Reception:
July 27, 2018
5:30 - 7:00 pm

July 28 -
October 14, 2018

Miriam Schapiro.
Children of Paradise, 1983-1984.
Color lithograph and collage on arches
cover paper: AAM 2008.014. Gift of
George Hilber, 2008

ACADEMY
ART
MUSEUM

106 South Street, Easton MD, 21601
ACADEMYARTMUSEUM.ORG

Miriam Schapiro.
Children of Paradise, 1983-1984.
Color lithograph and collage on arches
cover paper: AAM 2008.014. Gift of
George Hilber, 2008

ACADEMY
ART
MUSEUM

106 South Street, Easton MD, 21601
ACADEMYARTMUSEUM.ORG

Most Read Entertainment

- 1 First glimpse of Kennedy Center's much delayed expansion unveiled



Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a substantially sized glitter globe containing, because why not, a **cow doing a wheelie on a motorcycle**. This fine sculpture — we named it Cowasaki — was initially donated by Prime Prize Donor Cheryl Davis and was won by Mark Raffman in 2014 with his second-place meteorological term, "Tropical repression: Stifling high-pressure system that has stalled over Cuba for the past 55 years." Incredibly, Mark has donated the globe back to the Empress (admittedly, we have given him 49 Invite prizes *not* counting Loser magnets . . .).

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "No Childishness Left Behind" or "Magnum Dopus." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (**FirStink** for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Nov. 27; results published Dec. 17 (online Dec. 7). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Jon Gearhart; Chris Doyle wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" 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, published late Thursday afternoon, discusses each new contest and set of results. Check it out at wapo.st/conv1254.

And from [The Style Invitational](#) four weeks ago . . .

JEST IN TIME: THE YEAR-WORD POEMS OF WEEK 1250

In **Week 1250** we invited you to explore Merriam-Webster's nifty [Time Traveler](#) tool to see a list of English words and phrases that were first used in a certain year (or ancient century) — and then write a poem that included at least three of the words from a particular year. Many entrants noted that they'd chosen their birth years for their poems; presumably that's not true for the ones from the 15th century. (The year-words are in boldface.)

4th place:

1955:

My **flatmate** likes **veggies** to eat,
But my **hidden agenda** is meat.
By replacing the *Beta*
Vulgaris, I made a
Beef borscht — he did not miss a beet! (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)





3rd place:

Mootercycle? A cow-on-bike glitter globe, this week's second prize. (Pat Myers/The Washington Post)

1992:

His **man cave** was awesome, with
gadgets galore,
But he was a Class A misogynist boor.
And yet, he had women, a new one each day;
He called them **arm candy**, bestowed **PDA**.
But none of these gals kept him warm in the winter:
He'd made them at home on his cool **3-D printer**.
(Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

2nd place

- 2 **Perspective**
President Trump's power to pardon himself, as skewered by cartoons 
- 3 Celebrities, fashion insiders react to death of Kate Spade 
- 4 **Review**
Sex, politics and art painted in broad strokes in 'Botticelli in the Fire' 
- 5 **Perspective**
Trump's Super Bowl party without the Eagles, as mocked through cartoons 



GROSVENOR HEIGHTS





New Distinctive Elevator Townhomes in Bethesda from \$1.125M

LEARN MORE >

EYA

Our Online Games

Play right from this page

 <p>Klondike Solitaire Card game</p>	 <p>Mahjongg Candy Matching game</p>
 <p>Word Wipe Word game</p>	 <p>Mahjongg Dimensions Arcade game</p>

ADVERTISEMENT

and the [Merriam-Webster 'fortnightly' tote bag](#):

1865:

Manny, with the **mutton chops**, the **wheelman**, mostly placid,
Joined with Alec, the **smart aleck**, from the **gin mill** down the street,
For a **heist** with a huge **jackpot**. But the **barbituric acid**
Al had taken just that morning made him pass out on his feet.

Of this **ragtag** team of robbers only Manny thus was able
To confront the wealthy **oilman** when he walked into the bank,
And he drew his gun and told him, "Put the money on the table."
Then he lost his nerve and laughed, and said, "This whole thing's a prank!"

But the victim was **well thought of** and **well groomed**, and, well, was
wealthy,
And he summoned the police, and **hook and ladder**, and the mayor,
And every **anti-crime** official, and anybody who was healthy,
And en masse the town descended, meaning Manny had no prayer.

When Alec had awoken and saw Manny was surrounded,
He was rightly **pessimistic** that his friend would be **alright**.
So he told the group, "My friends, your keen suspicions are well founded.
It was him, and him alone, and boy he gave that man a fright!"

Then he jumped in Manny's wagon, and he drove it to the **gin mill**,
And he lived a life of freedom, prisoner only to the drink,
While his mutton-chopped accomplice soon was locked away in sinville,
Where he spent his sleepless evenings on a **box spring** in the clink.
(David Ginensky, New York, a First Offender)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

1959: When my **piam vanua** swimsuit s a bikini,
When my **klutzy** husband doesn't try my wits,
When my **personal computer** spits out money,
When my **horror show** teens cease to act like jerks,
When my **nutjob** in-laws move to someplace sunny,
That's when I'll know that **Wicca** really works.
(Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Downward doggerel: Honorable mentions

1579:

A **significant** subject of jokes
In an **epithet**-filled shame-orama,
Widely known as the fattest of folks—
And the ugliest too—she's Your **Mama!**
(Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

washingtonpost.com

© 1996-2018 The Washington Post

[Help and Contact Us](#)

[Policies and Standards](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Print Products Terms of Sale](#)

[Digital Products Terms of Sale](#)

[Submissions and Discussion Policy](#)

[RSS Terms of Service](#)

[Ad Choices](#)

1982:

Said the **bimbette**, "I'll take this one here
As my **boy toy** — just look at that rear!"
But her friend said, "No dice,
He won't look at you twice:
See, your **gaydar** needs tuning, my dear." (Mark Raffman)

1825:

Huffity, puffity,
Our pompous president
Thinks he can **outdebate**
Any and all.
Truth is he's nothing but
Egomaniacal —
Just a huge **lummo**x whose
Hands are quite small. — R. Tillerson (Jesse Frankovich)

Before 12th century:

Mayor Rob Ford wasn't wise
Getting **filmed** smoking **crack**. His demise
Was assured when he tried
To deny he had **lied**,
So now he's the Ford of the **Lies**. (Jon Gearhart)

It's sad that "**graft**," "**corrupt**" and "**plundered**"
Were all in use by **1500**. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

1945:

Head **honcho** to his Navy crew:
"Relax, men. Here's what you can do:
As you **chugalug** your Coke,
You can make an **A-bomb** joke.
You can holler, hoot or whistle
Re our latest **guided missile**.
You can rank the pro and con
Re our mighty **Pentagon**.
Cold War humor, and **graffiti**:
Touch-and-go (unless it's meaty).
But Admiral Nimitz
Is **off-limits**."
(Mae Scanlan, Washington)

A haiku entirely of 14th-century words:

Poetry pattern

Specifies syllable count:

Seventeen total.

(Jesse Frankovich)

1602:

We walk to her place;

My heart ups its pace.

Will she **comply**?

Oh, my – yes! Oh my!

Shoes dropping with thuds!

A **strewment** of duds!

'Twas an **enviable** fling.

But alas, there's one thing:

"It can't be! It can't!"

Oh, it is – she's **enceinte**.

(Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

1908:

Said the **school bus** mechanic, "I'm scared.

"I just can't fix this horn!" he declared.

Then a **Boy Scout** – no **yob** –

Said, "Let *me* do the job."

And in minutes: "All set. Beep repaired." (Mark Raffman)

1651:

"I've read of your soup and its status:

Blue-ribbon, in fact – yet it's **gratis**!

So how could it be

That your bean soup is free?"

"You'll realize in 10 seconds . . . **flatul**."

(Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick, Md.)

15th century:

My new play's a big hit, I am **certain**.

Act 1: **Adolescents** start flirtin'.

Act 2: They start datin'.

Act 3: They start matin'.

Act 4: The torn **rubber**. [Drop curtain.]

(Jon Gearhart)

1789:

In '89 of 17,

Aristocrats were mighty mean

To commoners who lived in France;

These poor folks never stood a chance.

But then one day they spread the news:

"The king is a pig!"

we've had it with the **royal blues**:

On **bechamel** you gluttons feed,
And all we get is **beggarweed**.

You care not that we waste away;
You stuff your face with **Montrachet**.
Your royal waists are thickening,
And (*sacre bleu!*) it's **sickening!**

'Eat cake,' you say? That's just a crock!
We're going to clean your **cuckoo clock**.
When all is done and all is said,
You'll rue the day you lost your head."
(Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Eats & Drinks newsletter

The latest buzz on the D.C. area dining and bar scene, featuring restaurant critic Tom Sietsema, every Wednesday.

Sign up

1960:

You can call me a **kook** or a crank,
But my **theme park** idea, it's no prank!
This new **elder care** venture's
A "Disney for Dentures" —
"No-Tomorrowland"! How could it tank?
(Mark Raffman)

1532:

His tweets are **prattle**,
His hair is **orange**,
He's easy to rattle.
Period.
(You didn't say the poems had to rhyme.)
(Kyle Hendrickson)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 20: our contest for totally bogus trivia about clothing and fashion. See

wapo.st/invite1253.

0 Comments



Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post's page for clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has posted and judged more than 700 contests. She also writes the weekly Style Conversational column and runs the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook. Follow @patmyersTWP

The Post Recommends

Opinion

MSNBC now has nine hours per week with big credibility problems

How do you navigate around credibility in the Trump era?

1 day ago



Analysis



Why the failure of 'Solo: A Star Wars Story' could spell bad news for Hollywood

"Solo's" slow second weekend came with an added mark of notoriety: No major movie opened against it.

2 hours ago



Opinion

This revealing anecdote unmasks Trump's dehumanization game

No one can credibly feign ignorance about his bigoted dog-whistling any longer.

May 25

