

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 974

in which we asked for limericks about a play, book, movie or TV show: We had so many fine entries that not only do many more appear in this week's online Invite (wapo.st/inv978), but we might also run more of them later this summer.

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKIN'
MEMORIAL

Why does Greece's Odysseus roam
For so long while Penelope's home?
It could be he won't ask
For directions — a task
That's too tough for his
Y-chromosome.
(Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

2 Winner of the kangaroo-scrotum coin purse: "Forrest Gump"

When viewed with objective lucidity,
This film is of doubtful validity
Because it's notorious
For saying it's glorious
To live a life based on stupidity.
(Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

3 "Pride and Prejudice" (1995)

Miss Elizabeth Bennet's low
birth,
No connections and little net worth,
Mom a twit, sis a skank —

It's a stretch (let's be frank)
To suggest she could land Colin Firth.
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

4 "Psycho"

At the end, when the cops finally
come,
All the murder and gore leaves them
numb.
From the way Norman's dressed,
They can tell that he's stressed;
Does he talk? No, he's just keeping
mum.
(Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Po'wetry: Honorable mentions

"Survivor"

Contestants from Nome to Hoboken
Will vie for a totem or token.
It may defy reason —
Its 20th season!
The upshot: The tripe has now
spoken. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

"Showgirls"

Though it won neither plaudits nor
gongs,
And for critics' acclaim it still longs,
Let those killjoys cry, "Boo!"
I'm applauding the view
Of a few of my favorite thongs.
(Stephen Gold, Glasgow, Scotland)

"Titanic"

We've got lovers whom death cannot
sever!
And a villain who's scheming and
clever!
And a ship whose demise
Will bring tears to your eyes!
Oh, a script? Okay, yeah, sure,
whatever. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

"The Crying Game"

A terrorist who fled the scene is

Quite drawn to a bar-singing Venus.
But the guy is dismayed
When he tries to get laid
And discovers the girl has a
[DELETED BECAUSE OF SPOILER].
(Marion Shore, Belmont, Mass., a First Offender)

"Moby-Dick"

There once was a man from
Nantucket
Whose whaling ship ran out of luck; it
Took on the white whale
And in one epic fail,
Every sailor but one kicked the
bucket. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Caltech's a big deal on TV,
And its physicist-nerds are the key.
"The Big Bang Theory" speaks
In the language of geeks:
PhD = BMOC. (Chris Doyle)

"Guys and Dolls"

How go things in Noo Yawk? Nicely-
nicely.
Guys shoot craps; dolls perform very
spicily.
Ad loves Nate; Sarah, Sky.
Each ends up with her guy.
Is that cheesy? It's Broadway.
Precisely! (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

"I Dream of Jeannie"

The love life of a brave astronaut'll
Be something a blond babe who's
hot'll
Enhance. She'll entrance
If she wears harem pants,
Calls him "Master" and lives in a
bottle. (Chris O'Carroll, Pelham, Mass.)

"Keeping Up with the Kardashians"

Do you know why the sisters
Kardashian
Have a show that they're paid to look
trashy in?
The answer is sad:
The world has gone mad,
And talent has grown out of fashi-on.
(Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

"Gone With the Wind"

Well, the film goes its windy old way,
And it ends with a lousy cliché:
Should we laugh or feel sorrow
To learn that "tomorrow
Is a-" (would you believe?) "nother
day"? (Brian Allgar, Paris)

Still running — deadline Monday night — is our Google Translate contest. See wapo.st/inv977a.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 978: Am iamb

To Washington and Its Nationals

First in war and first in peace, it's said —
Worst in baseball? *That* trope now is dead.

A couple of weeks ago when I was judging the close to 1,000 limericks submitted for Week 974 (some featured on this page, more online), I found myself talking all the time in the Hickory-Dickory-Dock rhythm that forms the bulk of a limerick — "I'd LIKE a McCHICKen with FRIES; / See, I'm LOOKing to FATTen my THIGHS . . ." (This is why the Empress tends to dine alone.) Anyway, I need to get a different rhythmic earworm, so we're switching to duple meter this month. Here's a form called "framed couplets," introduced to me by light-verse writer Madeleine Begun Kane and coined by poet Hector Gutierrez: **Write a short verse about something that's been in the news recently**, as in the example above by Versifier-on-Retainer Gene Weingarten. You may add a title.

1. The poem must be either a couplet (two rhyming lines, "AA") or two couplets ("AA/BB").
2. Each line starts with an accented syllable and runs for nine syllables in an iambic meter: BA-da-BA-da-BA-da-BA-da-BA.
3. The FIRST syllables of each couplet also rhyme with each other.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Style Invitational trophy. Second place wins the novel "Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder: Bubble in the Bathtub," donated by 11-year-old Loser scion Saralinda Contompasis, who found it entirely too juvenile and clearly better suited to her father's crowd.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt, a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders get a smelly, tree-shaped air "freshener" (Fir Stink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, July 9; results published July 29 (online July 27). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 978" in your e-mail 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/StyleInv. The subhead for this week's honorable mentions is by Kevin Dopart. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

STYLE CONVERSATIONAL Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at washingtonpost.com/stylconversational.

TV

PBS's 'Mystery!' presents Morse, before he became an inspector, in 'Endeavour'

BY TISH WELLS

The "Inspector Morse" mystery series was among the most popular ever broadcast on PBS and has lived on in reruns for years.

Now a 90-minute special, "Endeavour," introduces viewers to a very young Morse, a gawky lad in his 20s who dropped out of the University of Oxford.

Set in 1965, the show starts on

the day young Morse (Shaun Evans) returns to Oxford as a detective constable with a typed resignation in his pocket and a weak stomach for dead bodies. He and several others are assigned to fill in on office duties while more experienced detectives hunt for a missing town girl, not an undergraduate. Class issues are always a part of British shows and this one stirs

in the eternal conflict of town and gown.

However, in all cases in Oxford, the academic atmosphere permeates everything. That's where Morse's background comes in handy. He begins to investigate on his own, then, with the help of an older mentor. Clashes at the police station lead to other problems with upper authority — a trademark of the older series.

The original "Inspector Morse" series ran for six years. It ended with the death of Morse in 2001 and permanently with the death of the lead actor, John Thaw, in 2002.

This is not the first "Inspector Morse" spinoff. The much put-upon sergeant of the original series, Robbie Lewis, has his own "Inspector Lewis" series, set in current-day Oxford.

ENDEAVOUR

airs at 9 p.m. July 1 on WETA and MPT.

INSPECTOR LEWIS

airs at 9 p.m. Sundays, July 8-29, on WETA and MPT.



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ENDEAVOUR: Shaun Evans is a young Detective Morse on PBS.