

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Quipture: The greatest stories retold

BY PAT MYERS

As we note in this week's new contest, in **Week 1324** the Empress asked for a Bible story or classical or folk tale retold in the style of some particular person. Lots of people imitated Hemingway, which proved not so easy.

4th place:

The Creation, as told by Garrison Keillor: "Well, it's been a quiet week in the formless void." (Roy Ashley, Washington)

3rd place:

The miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11), by Emily Dickinson: I taste a liquor never brewed — But how, I do not know — I swear these urns held water — just A half an hour ago! You've saved the wedding, Nazarene — Had we but known your flair: We would have asked you — months ago — To — cater — the — affair! (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

2nd place and "The Golfer's Prayer Book":

The Tortoise and the Hare, by Samuel Beckett: Hare: Shall we race? Tortoise: Yes, let's race. (The hare does not move) (Frank Mann, Washington)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

"Oedipus Rex," by Allan Sherman: Goodbye Faddah, Hello Muddah, I slew one and wed the uddah, When my judgment got less hazy, I gouged out both my eyeballs and went crazy. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Burnt offerings: Honorable mentions

The Creation of Eve, by Dashiell Hammett: Her legs didn't stop until they knocked my eyes out, and then there was more, but I didn't have any more eyes to be knocked out. "Hey, dumplin'," I said, "which garden are you from? 'Cause that rib looks familiar. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

The Creation of Eve, by Jane Austen: The operation having been performed with little inconvenience to the gentleman, as he was accustomed to dozing upon a sofa when anything disagreeable might be going on, the woman was expertly sculpted from his rib-bone, displaying all the delicacy and loveliness one might expect in the female form. As she moved to stand before him with a lightness and alacrity in her step, the man woke abruptly and turned to observe her. He found her a good deal more than tolerable, and the two presently expressed a wish to be wed as speedily as propriety would allow. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville, a First Offender)

Adam and Eve, as analyzed by Robert Mueller: The investigation uncovered that Adam did meet with a snake, and fruit was consumed. The fruit was shared with Eve. Adam and Eve subsequently concluded that they were naked and hid. Through the course of the investigation, we can neither confirm or deny the snake informed any change of opinion. (Mary McNamara, Washington)

The Flood, as told by Marie Kondo: God had seen that humanity no longer sparked joy and decided to do a little decluttering . . . (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

David and Goliath, as told by Napoleon Dynamite: David is pretty much my favorite king. He had great skills, like slingshot skills, psalm-writing skills, stealthiness skills. But if it was me facing Goliath, I would've used a fricking 12-gauge. Gosh! (Paul Burnham, Gainesville)

The miracle at Cana, by wine critic Robert Parker: Starting with virtually nothing, this vintner has crafted a tawny, luscious merlot with overtones of frankincense and myrrh that will make a believer out of even the most jaded skeptic — simply divine! A solid 95. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

The first Easter, as told by local TV news: Jesus was found missing from his tomb today — but first, how to tell if your husband is watching porn on your home computer. (Roy Ashley)

The Trojan Horse, by Ogden



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1328: Hooked on 'classic': A do-over

Chapter 10 of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," as told by Lou Reed: Huckleberry came from St. Petersburg, M-O, Him and Jim just drifted with the flow, Wore a dress on the down-low, Jim said, honey, go, go, go, Said, hey, Huck, take a raft to the wild side . . . — Frank Osen

Four weeks ago, the Empress asked the Loser Community to "tell or describe a Bible story, or another classical or folk tale . . . in the voice of a particular author or other person." And she got a lot of creative tellings of Testaments Old and New, Roman myths, fairy tales, nursery rhymes — the best of which you'll see in today's results (and many more online).

But there were also retellings of "Moby Dick," "Green Eggs and Ham," the Harry Potter series . . . clearly, the E should have specified "ancient tale" rather than a "classical" one; the term was taken, understandably, to mean a "classic" work, old or recent.

But we're coming into making-lemonade season anyway, and it would be awful to toss such good stuff. So for **Week 1328: Summarize a book or play by any author, or retell a scene (or even a moment) from one, in the style of some other person**, as in the example above, which was an entry in the previous contest. As in Week 1324, we're looking for a paragraph, not a page. The entries could also be in verse. If an entry you sent for Week 1324 would fit Week 1328, you may send it again.

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1328 (all lowercase). Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy.

In this week of reverence, we offer for second place a Spock prayer candle, a classic glass cylinder depicting the solemn Vulcan in front of a glowing halo, complete with a flaming Sacred Heart in front of his chest. Made in Texas and donated by the long-lived and prosperous Kevin Dopart.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "We've Seen Better" or "IDiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, April 29;** results published May 19 in print, May 16 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Jesse Frankovich; William Kennard wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day at bit.ly/inkofiday; follow @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 this week's contest, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

Note: The "Barves" T-shirt offered as last week's second prize was donated by Loser John Kupiec, but not designed by him. Still very cool, though.



ILLUMINIDOL.COM

Um, Leonard Nimoy was Jewish: A Spock prayer candle.

Nash: The Trojans' gullibility could not have turned out worse. A shame they hadn't heard the sage advice passed down to me by my great-uncle Winthrop, namely: Beware of Greeks bearing gifts, and vice versa. (Elliott Shevin, Oak Park, Mich.)

The Odyssey, as told by Ernest Hemingway: It was a long journey home. He was weary in a way that drinking and fishing could not fix. His dog saw him and died. (Dan Gibson-Reinemer, Alamosa, Colo.)

The Emperor's New Clothes, as told by Donald Trump:

There was this emperor who was unbelievably popular. Many people say I'm even more popular, but this guy was close, okay? He decided he could walk naked down Fifth Avenue and no one would say a word. This one kid spoke up. He was a low-IQ loser. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

The Pharaoh in Exodus, as told by Gilbert & Sullivan:

I am the very model of a mean authoritarian, I rule quite iron-fisted my society agrarian. I minimize my labor costs by holding folks in slavery, Elicit lamentations with assorted acts of knavery. I bring on plagues where boils grow all over the extremities, Won't let the people go or offer any other remedies. It prob'ly would be wiser to relent and take up gardening; Perhaps I need a doctor, 'cause my heart is always hardening. My captives' living quarters sure aren't Doubletrees or Marriotts, But if they run away, I'll go right after them with chariots, And by the time I'm finished, all my army will be carrion; I am the very model of a mean authoritarian. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

Lots more honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1328.

Still running — deadline Monday, April 22: our perennial bank headline contest. See wapo.st/invite1327.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"IT'S ALL IN THE GAME SHOW" By GARY LARSON

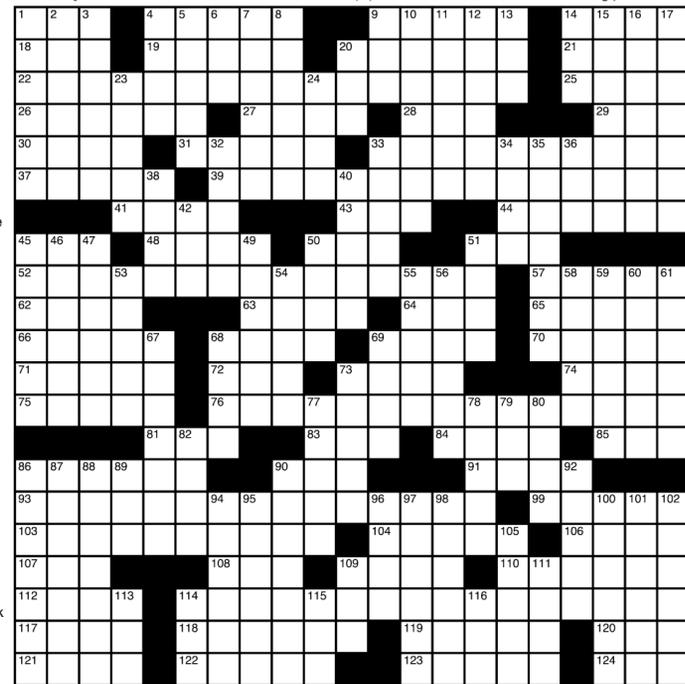
- ACROSS
- 1 Roll of dough
- 4 Covert agents
- 9 It, on a remote
- 14 Melt
- 18 Bar order
- 19 Ain't right?
- 20 Beach wear
- 21 Pixar clownfish
- 22 [Bee home + Venus + heron kin]
- 25 Crime film genre
- 26 In the same place, in footnotes
- 27 State as fact
- 28 Kitten's cry
- 29 NFL ball carriers
- 30 E Street Band guitarist Lofgren
- 31 Actor Davis
- 33 Stereotypical shipwreck site
- 37 City near Düsseldorf
- 39 ["Star Trek" villain + mailed + light beam + take pains to avoid]
- 41 Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"
- 43 Take effect, as meds
- 44 Binges
- 45 Org. funded by FICA
- 48 Ward on TV
- 50 Lennon's love
- 51 Everyday article
- 52 [Sass, in slang + inferno + turkey + Babe with a bat]
- 57 Flavor
- 62 O.T. book after Amos
- 63 They may be vacant
- 64 Furrow maker
- 65 Run off to wed
- 66 Harry Potter's forte
- 68 Junkyard dogs
- 69 Benefit
- 70 Hardly bold
- 71 Gladiator's venue
- 72 Has too much, for short
- 73 Aretha's queendom
- 74 Musical pitch
- 75 Lazy ___
- 76 [Legume + yank + pound sound + bee product]
- 81 Wray of "King Kong"

- 83 Anger
- 84 Angry
- 85 Suffix with cannon
- 86 Level between kingdom and class
- 90 "The Raven" writer
- 91 What's expected
- 93 [Cutlet meat + statule + quartet + goatse site]
- 99 Instrument with movable frets
- 103 Poker pros, say
- 104 Snap course
- 106 "Scream" star
- 107 Opposite of COD
- 108 "This Is India" novelist Santha Rama
- 109 Raggedy dolls
- 110 Advanced
- 112 Author Dinesen
- 114 [Utter + cherish + old laundry detergent + harm]
- 117 ___ stick
- 118 Climber's tool
- 119 Hit the road
- 120 Itinerary abbr.
- 121 Fed. power dept.
- 122 "Napoleon Dynamite" sidekick
- 123 Borders
- 124 Stalom segment

- DOWN
- 1 Female surfer
- 2 Suspects' stories
- 3 New Jersey NHL team
- 4 "Parsley, ___, rosemary . . ."
- 5 Teaser
- 6 Mil. roadside hazard
- 7 Hyphen cousin
- 8 Lydia's sugar substitute on "Breaking Bad"
- 9 ___op
- 10 Enlarge
- 11 Turmoil
- 12 Kebab holder
- 13 Body shop fig.
- 14 Spike TV, once
- 15 Flexible pronoun substitute
- 16 1929 title words following "Now he's gone, and we're through"
- 17 Deteriorates
- 20 Original D&D co.
- 23 Ford flop
- 24 Gone out with
- 32 Talent
- 33 Designer's concern
- 34 Itchy red area
- 35 Work on galleries
- 36 Neighbor of Syr.
- 38 Quick snack
- 40 Smoots in woodshop
- 42 Maiden name preceder
- 45 Plant pores
- 46 Outback automaker
- 47 Sayings like "Haste makes waste"
- 49 Refer (to)

- 50 Scoreboard count
- 51 What you used to be?
- 53 Minneapolis suburb
- 54 Backs, anatomically
- 55 Moving brand
- 56 Stein's confidante
- 58 2008 Supreme Court appointee
- 59 Cal Poly city
- 60 Expressed a view
- 61 Flight named for its effect on fliers
- 67 Flower-watering amounts
- 68 Backup
- 69 One and only fish?
- 73 More reliable
- 77 Devout
- 78 Opie portrayer Howard
- 79 To and ___
- 80 For the woman
- 82 Asian nurse

- 86 Material for drainage lines
- 87 Adds and adds
- 88 Golf hole measure
- 89 Honorary law deg.
- 90 Well-liked
- 92 Flapper Nicki
- 94 The Red Baron, e.g.
- 95 Unraveled
- 96 Suffix with Pleisto-
- 97 Take care of view
- 98 Put out, as a magazine
- 100 Prof's security
- 101 Wards off
- 102 Colors again, as hair
- 105 Still in the game
- 109 Fifth in NYC, e.g.
- 111 Tili bills
- 113 "MASH" setting: Abbr.
- 114 Drink sampling brand
- 116 Zig partner



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | April 21: You have the intelligence and energy needed to function at a high level. At the same time, you express caring and thoughtfulness. This year, others become more aware of you. If you're single, suitors act as though you're the honey they always wanted. Choose carefully; don't commit unless you are 100 percent sure. If you're attached, you and your sweetie will spend more and more happy hours together. Sagittarius often encourages risks. Be careful.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Because you appear to be in the mood to take a big risk, you might cause someone to worry. Hopefully, this is a well-thought-out decision; your friend could be overreacting. Although you're normally more cautious, a devil-may-care attitude prevails today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You seem calm, cool and collected, but you might feel confused about a special relationship that pulls you out of your daily life. Enjoy this tendency to go to extremes, yet be a little cautious.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You might want to pull away and ponder the results you're seeing. Could you be too involved with an issue to gain a perspective? You know what you desire but cannot seem to achieve it. Have some patience.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Confusion surrounds communication. Try as you might, you could have difficulty getting going. Worry less about a conversation or decision. You'll see everything work out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You continue to stretch and try something new. You like the variety. Be careful with a risk that could hit you financially. You might want to do some research. More information can never hurt you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) After a recent busy streak, slow down and relax. A family member could be delighted that you have more time to visit. Mind you, this could be the family cat. Catch up on a friend's news, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You have what many would view as a dynamic imagination that sometimes could be a source of disappointment. Still, don't allow a once-in-a-while flub to stop you. You gain from this creativity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Be aware that someone you're dealing with has a very possessive nature. Could this be you? Even if feelings are mutual between you and another person, try to work through an innate, possibly suffocating, emotional craving.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You won't slow down. In fact, you're likely to rev up your pace. Others might have difficulty keeping up with you or expressing the same enthusiasm. Your naturally gregarious personality helps another person finally lighten up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You sense a lot going on behind the scenes. No matter what, you cannot seem to get the full story. Listen well; allow time before you respond. Someone might add in a word or two.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) A friend could pop up from nowhere. This person wants and needs your complete attention. You might need to rearrange your schedule to accommodate the need. Make it your pleasure to spend some quality time together.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Stress could be getting the best of you. Many of you will need to handle some work or check in with another person who needs you a lot. Don't allow moodiness to scar the day. Rather, relax and flow with the moment.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

