

## DIVERSIONS

### THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# Rewordsmiths: Week 1328 winners

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1328** we asked you to retell or summarize a book or play, or a scene from it, in the voice of someone else. The Empress was not shocked that many of the best entries honored the two most influential writers in English: William Shakespeare and Dr. Seuss.

### 4th place

#### Hamlet's soliloquy, as told by Dr. Seuss

Today there's a thing that I'm dying to know,  
A question that haunts me wherever I go:

A person's a person, no matter how small,  
But is it worth being a person at all?

With all the bad things in the world that I'm seeing,  
It may be that being is worse than NOT being.

But nobody knows. There's the rub: we must dread

That maybe it will not be fun to be dead,  
And hard as we find it to be a live person,

Once we are gone all our problems may worsen.

(Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

### 3rd place

#### "A Tale of Two Cities," by Donald Trump

It was the best of times, it was the best of times, it was the greatest time you've ever seen, believe me, it was a beautiful time, it was really great, most people don't know this but it was the best of times, it was huge, not like those times that weren't so great, it was incredible, a lot of people are saying it was the best of times, except for the Fake News, but it was the best of times, NO COLLUSION! (Laurie Brink, Cleveland, Mo.)

### 2nd place and the Spock prayer candle:

#### "A Tale of Two Cities," by Ogden Nash:

It was the best of times, yet also not so hot,  
When lots of Bourbons got guillotined by the sans-culottes,  
Which technically means "without breeches,"  
But at that point meant "a bunch of folks whose revolutionary zeal sort of overreaches,"  
Led by Madame Defarge,  
Who ordered blood spilled like she was spreading a croissant with marge,  
Meaning plenty of martyrdom, so someone had to do the martyrn',  
Namely Sydney Carton.  
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

### And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

#### "Green Eggs and Ham" by William Shakespeare

O friend! I prithee! Let us take a ride,  
For truly, sir, thy life is incomplete  
'Til viridescent ovum thou hast tried  
Together with a slice of glaucous meat!  
O! Wouldst thou in a locomotive train?  
Perhaps aboard an airplane in the skies?  
Or wouldst thou in a boat upon the main?  
Thou shouldst! For 'tis a dish that thou wouldst prize!  
  
When travel I on land or sea or air,  
By any mode of transport I may go,  
However thou mayst urge this bill of fare,  
Wouldst sample I this dish? I tell thee no!  
I liketh not the egg of greenish hue,  
Nor care I for thy cut of proffered ham,  
So, verily, if to myself be true,  
I shall not eat thy dish, Sir Sam-I-Am.  
(Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

### Rewriter's block: Honorable mentions

#### Polonius's advice to Laertes in "Hamlet," by Donald Trump

Never a lender, but a borrower be!  
Let no man see thy purse's content,  
Claim it too exhaustive for any to comprehend.  
Give no man thy ear, but all thy voice;  
Allow no time for judgment, speak boldly beyond the point of vulgarity.  
Make thy name into a brand and brand into fortune  
By constantly proclaiming thyself and thy works great.  
This above all: regardless of fact, declare thy words true!  
(Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1332: We'll call them Spellimericks

Fraud is rampant in voting, you know!

All those turbines cause cancer to grow!

Largest tax cut we've had!

Spies were tracking me! Bad!

Every migrant's a criminal foe!

Yes, we'll still have our annual Limerixicon in August. But this week the Empress was moved to add another limerick contest, approximately 1.78 seconds after reading the suggestion by Obsessive Loser Jesse Frankovich, complete with examples.

**This week: Write a humorous limerick that's an acrostic: a pertinent five-letter word or name spelled out by the first letter of each line, as in Jesse's example above. Don't bother to use boldface or a special format to highlight the word you're spelling out; even the Empress can figure that out, and the entry form won't show it anyway.**

Please see [wapo.st/limericks-1332](http://wapo.st/limericks-1332) for our fairly strict rules on limerick rhyme and meter (in a nutshell: "perfect" rhyme, and a strong "hickory-dickory-dock" rhythm in Lines 1, 2 and 5; a "dickory-dock" in Lines 3 and 4; extra unaccented syllables on either side are fine.

Submit entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1332](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1332) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a smaller, less unwieldy, but still alarming version of a prize we've given twice before: It's a **ceramic mug in a rattlesnake motif**, with a little ceramic rattlesnake head hissing at you from inside. Donated as before by Not a Loser Mary Ellen Stroupe.

**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, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de)Merit." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, May 27;** results published June 16 in print, June 13 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Rewordsmiths" is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

● **The Style Conversational:** The Empress's online column returns in a couple of weeks.



You have to drink only a few sips of coffee before this week's prize wakes you up good.

#### Hamlet's soliloquy, by Dr. Seuss

To be — or be not? — that's the thing that I ask,  
For when life gets so hard that to live is a task,  
And your luck is so bad that there's no way to win,  
There's an easy way out! You can do yourself in!  
But wait! Are you sure? Do you feel just a shred  
Of that dread in your head to be deader than dead?  
Could it be that self-killing is not right for you?  
(More a thought that you think than a thing that you do . . .)  
(Mark Raffman)

#### "Charlotte's Web" by Internet pioneer Tim Berners-Lee:

People will believe what you post on the Web.  
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

#### "2001: A Space Odyssey," as told by Cheech and Chong

Dave: Open the pod bay doors, HAL.  
HAL: Who is it?  
Dave: It's Dave, man. Open up, I couldn't save Frank.  
HAL: Who is it?  
Dave: Dave. It's Dave, man! C'mon, I don't have my helmet with me.  
HAL: Dave?  
Dave: Yeah, Dave.  
HAL: Dave's not here, man.  
(Steve Smith, Potomac)

#### Frank Kafka's "Metamorphosis" explained by Mister Rogers

Have you ever had a bad day?  
Gregor Samsa had a very bad day. He turned into a giant cockroach. He had six long legs and a thousand tiny eyes; Imagine what you could see with all those eyes!  
One thing he could see was that his whole family didn't love him anymore because he was a disgusting insect. Would that make you sad? I know it would make me sad. (Frank Mann, Washington)

#### "1984": In Room 101, O'Brien finally breaks Winston Smith's will, by Dave Barry

Smith: Oh God, rats?!  
O'Brien: No, Miami cockroaches. Smith: I can handle bugs.  
O'Brien: But can you handle THIS?! (Music builds.)  
Smith: Not "Copacabana"! O'Brien: And "Mandy" up next!  
Smith: Stop! I'll LOVE Big Brother!  
O'Brien: "Big Brother and the Miami Cockroaches" would be a good name for a rock band. (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

#### The opening of Edward Bulwer-Lytton's "Paul Clifford," as told by Peter Mark Roget:

It was a crepuscular and tempestuous eventide . . . (Roy Ashley, Washington)

#### "A Christmas Carol" as told by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez:

"But then the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come took Scrooge even further into the future, where he was revered for refusing to let his clerk burn coal . . ." (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1332](http://wapo.st/invite1332).

**Still running — deadline Monday, May 20: our contest to add or delete text from a sentence in the paper. See [wapo.st/invite1331](http://wapo.st/invite1331).**

### L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

#### "ELIMINATION" By ROSS TRUDEAU

##### ACROSS

1 vu  
5 Command from Kirk  
13 Drink word for "strained"  
19 [Sigh]  
20 Unsuccessful competitors  
21 One-footed creature  
22 Cracked river barriers?  
25 Spiced up  
26 Sign of contempt  
27 In a lab, it's often white  
28 "Yesterday!"  
30 Cart count  
31 Pop by  
33 Org. with quarantine authority  
35 Western alliances

37 How the satisfied stand  
39 "Psych!"  
40 What a generous mechanic might do after a wreck?  
44 Indistinct mass  
46 Deck-enclosing option  
48 Brainchild  
49 Mani-pedi locale  
50 David or Saul?  
53 "Sunday Morning" channel  
55 —de-sac  
56 Felt  
57 Greek X  
58 Jolly syllables  
60 Words of defeat  
62 Chipotle alternative  
64 Kind of artery  
65 DNC chair Tom  
66 Pittance  
68 Request to the local marriage oath writer?

72 Some dishwashers  
73 Gap rival  
75 Memoir, for one  
76 Odist's inspiration  
78 Rib  
79 Best Female Athlete, e.g.  
80 Eur. country in the Olympics since 1992  
82 Dulles alternative  
86 Place to stay  
87 Business card no.

89 Variety headline for director Lee's U.S. debut?  
92 Calif spot  
93 With 66-Down, when Lady Macbeth says, "Leave all the rest to me"  
95 Nonprofit reporting app  
96 Coal carrier  
97 Magician's tote?  
101 Clancy's "The \_\_\_ of All Fears"

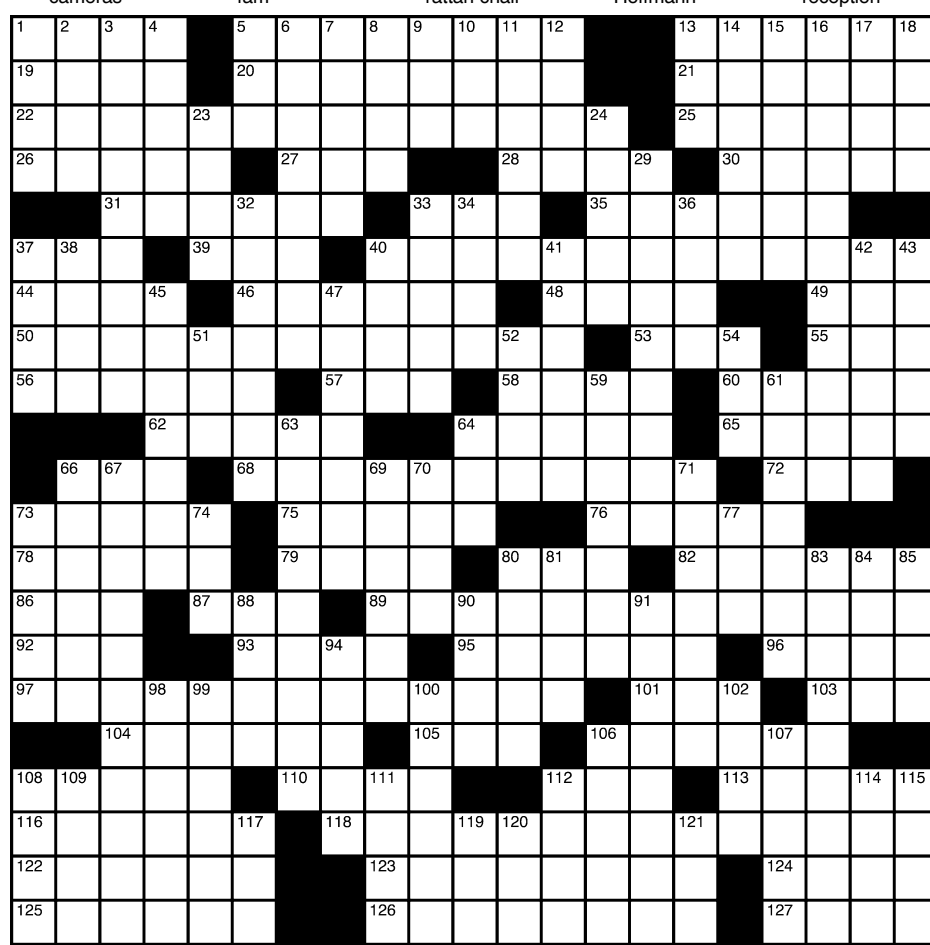
103 More-than-stretchy statement  
104 "The Yodeling Cowgirl" in "Toy Story" films  
105 Novelist Rand  
106 Rodeo contestants, at times  
108 Quiet order  
110 Run smoothly  
112 It's dropped for emphasis  
113 Implied  
116 Pioneer 35mm cameras

118 Talks about woks?  
122 Shmoo creator  
123 Tapered cigar  
124 \_\_\_ Brasi, "The Godfather"  
125 Frank  
126 Regular guys?  
127 Headliner

**DOWN**  
1 Some diaper changers  
2 Panache  
3 1607 settlement  
4 Selling point  
5 Abolish  
6 Spooky  
7 Like about 25% of Russia's population  
8 Part of MVP  
9 "The A-Team" muscle  
10 Singer's skill  
11 World Heritage Site org.  
12 Subtle "Over here!"  
13 Member of the fam

14 Flexible lunch hour  
15 Directory name  
16 College Bd.  
17 Consider  
18 Throws in  
23 Goller's wedge, e.g.  
24 Delicious  
29 Musical timbre  
32 Ph.D.'s next hurdle  
33 French sweetie  
34 Crab Key villain  
36 Wild attempt  
37 Lunchbox staples, initially  
38 Protected while sailing  
40 Silicon Valley field  
41 Ryder of "Stranger Things"  
42 Works  
43 Chopin work  
45 Creamy soups  
47 Mends, as a rattan chair

51 Stark in "Game of Thrones"  
52 Muffet fare  
54 Nurse  
59 "Try it"  
61 Creations with colorful blocks  
63 Crunchy snack  
64 Regret  
66 See 93-Across  
67 Breakfast staple  
69 Hurting  
70 \_\_\_ Mawr  
71 Gets ready to play  
73 Scrabble 8-pointer  
74 Rainy  
77 Driving aid  
80 It covers the House  
81 Encircle  
83 Thin Mints  
84 Trendy berry  
85 Finger  
88 Has  
90 "Girls" Emmy nominee  
91 "Oh, that's adorable!"  
94 Make a mess of: as traffic  
98 Swipe again?  
99 Slingshot feature  
100 January birthstone  
102 Queens squad  
106 2014 Lizzie Borden  
107 Flight safety equipment?  
108 Crunchy side  
109 Port opener  
111 See 119-Down  
112 Advanced teaching deg.  
114 Machu Picchu denizen  
115 Peter the Great, e.g.  
117 Mar. arrival, in theory  
119 Dr. who 111-Down  
120 "\_\_\_ tree falls . . ."  
121 USCG reception



5/19/19

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

### HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | May 19:** This year, you willingly experience life more openly. You could start looking at each day as an adventure. You might tend to take more risks. Use good sense. If you are single, you will meet quite a few people this year. You will know when you meet someone who is suitable for you. They will want to commit. If attached, the two of you want to spend more and more time together. Plan some mini-vacations or lengthy weekends together. In a relaxing atmosphere, you will bond far more deeply with the one you love. You enjoy one-on-one relating, especially to your sweetie (and vice versa). Sagittarius nearly always perks up your mood.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
The full moon could set feelings afire. You might instinctively hold back rather than share. You could feel more together than you have lately; however, confusion marks interactions at present.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
Deal with a person directly. You know what you want and where you are heading. Just the same, a discussion with a friend might have you questioning which way you want to go.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Defer to another person who seems to have stronger feelings than you about a personal matter or key relationship. You could change your mind and surprise yourself later.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
You could get a lot accomplished if you so choose. What is happening around you could cause a change of tune. Be more forthright in how you deal with a child or loved one. This person might be overly emotional, but they will calm down.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
Be more playful and upbeat. You could be tired from pushing as hard as you have. On top of your fatigue, an innate misunderstanding could come forward. The unexpected occurs when dealing with finances.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Stay centered and deal with a domestic or personal matter. Excitement surrounds an idea of yours. Do not hedge. Push this new idea through before someone changes their mind.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
Speak your mind loud and clear. You might not be able to contain another person or keep this person

from expressing their feelings. You easily could over-dote on someone, causing yourself a problem.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
You could have a problem, as you might have a tendency to go to excess. A misunderstanding could be the trigger to your emotional display. The unexpected impacts a partner or close loved one.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
You smile with ease and feel more in control than you have for a while. You could be sitting on a minor earthquake. Deal directly with a conclusion, especially around making plans or feelings.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
You might feel compromised by a

friend. As a result, you could decide to keep to yourself and think through the situation. Do not hesitate to ask for advice or get feedback.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
Your friendly ways draw several people toward you. You could be extremely busy keeping up with different sets of friends. Remember that you are just one person.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
Pressure builds. You might resent being a role model or taking the lead. You will do whatever you want to do and nothing more. If you would like to take some time off to spend with an older friend or relative, by all means do.

#### Answers to last week's puzzle.

A	C	T	N	I	C	E	M	O	R	S	E	L	C	I	R	C	L	E			
P	A	R	A	D	O	X	A	U	R	O	R	A	O	M	E	L	E	T			
T	R	A	V	E	L	A	D	V	I	S	O	R	Y	R	A	M	A	D			
E	R	N	E	L	C	D	N	O	L	O	N	G	E	R							
S	I	C	P	U	T	T	F	U	E	L	A	D	D	I	T	I	V	E			
T	E	E	P	A	D	S	H	E	R	R	E	O	N	N	I	L					
			A	P	E	M	O	M	A	C	O	N	G	E	R	E	E	L			
F	U	L	L	A	D	M	I	R	A	L	H	A	S	E	T	T	A				
A	T	O	M			P	A	N		F	I	R	E	M	A	N					
N	E	W	S	I	T	E	M	B	E	L	L	A	L	E	T	A	P				
T	R	E	D	I	G	I	T	A	L	A	D	D	I	C	T	E	T	E			
A	I	R	B	E	D	E	T	S	A	S	S	A	M	T	E	A					
			R	A	Y	B	A	N	S	A	T	E	O	R	A	L					
E	M	L	Y			E	S	S	S	A	M	U	E	L	A	D	A	M	S		
M	A	I	N	I	S	S	U	E	P	R	O	M	A	G	E						
M	I	L	L	E	I			M	A	C	K	T	I	E	L	E	S	S			
E	M	A	I	L	A	D	D	R	E	S	S	B	E	D	E	L	E	T			
			B	R	O	K	E	R	E	D		E	N	D	A	L	D	O			
P	A	N	A	M	A			A	N	I	M	A	L	A	D	O	P	T	I	O	N
G	R	E	T	E	L	T	A	C	O	M	A	T	W	O	T	O	N	E			
S	E	R	E	N	E			S	L	O	P	E	D		O	N	E	S	T	A	R

5/12/19