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Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1432: Turn tale and run with it

Do a twist on a folktale or children’s song. Plus winning neologisms from ScrabbleGrams.



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

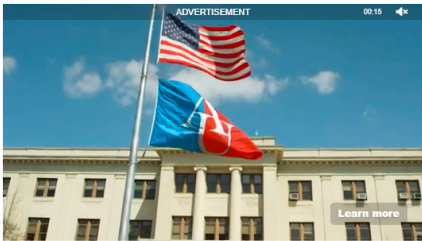
By **Pat Myers** Add to list

April 15, 2021 at 9:48 a.m. EDT

(Click [here](#) to skip down to the winning neologisms from ScrabbleGrams “racks”)

**To sabotage giants, to truly defeat them,
don’t waste your time planting some magic legumes —
just stir them (like I did) with salsa and eat them,
then jet through the sky on the power of fumes.**

This week’s contest was inspired by a typically devilishly delightful new book by the poet, humorist and 174-time Style Invitational Loser Melissa Balmain. In **“The Witch Demands a Retraction: Fairy Tale Reboots for Adults,”** published by Humorist Books, Melissa serves up a host of fresh, wry, often adults-only perspectives on your classic folktales in such poems as “Pinocchio Runs for Office,” “Not So Snow White” and, above, “Jack Admits There Was No Beanstalk.” **This week: Offer a new angle on a folk tale, nursery rhyme, children’s song, etc., with a short poem, mini-story (under 100 words) or song parody.**



The Witch Demands
a Retraction

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1432 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, April 26;** results appear May 16 in print. May 16 online.

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- 5 For author Jenny Lawson, life is brutal — and hilarious 



This contest's inspiration and second prize all in one. (Humorist Books)

Print, May 13 online.

Winner gets the **Clowning Achievement**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a copy of “The Witch Demands a Retraction,” which Melissa will sign and send to you.

Other runners-up win their choice of our “For Best Results, Pour Into Top End” Loser Mug or our “Whole Fools” Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “No ‘Bility” or “Punderachiever.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their

first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline “Laugh Racks” is by Chris Doyle; Dave Prevar wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. 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; and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.



The Style Conversational: The Empress’s weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week’s, published late afternoon on Thursday, April 15, at wapo.st/conv1432.

The “You’re Invited” podcast: A dozen half-hour episodes, including dish from the Empress and the Czar, and tips from top Losers. See bit.ly/invite-podcast.

And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .

Laugh racks: ScrabbleGrams neologisms from Week 1428

[Week 1428](#) was the eighth installment of The Tile Invitational, in which we supply a list of seven-letter “racks” from the [ScrabbleGrams](#) syndicated word game, and ask you to make new words and phrases of five, six or seven letters. So many Losers looked at AAGHRSW and saw **HAR SWAG**, which of course is a pile of Loser Magnets, mugs, bags, disembodied clown heads, etc.

4th place:

[ACELNPU](#) > **UNCLAP**: To sheepishly stop applauding when you realize no one else is, then look around to see who the “idiot” was. (*Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring, Md.*)

3rd place:

[AENPRRT](#) > **REPANT**: What one should do immediately after succumbing to sins of the flesh — especially if there’s a sound at the door. (*Deanna Busick, Knoxville, Tenn.*)

2nd place and the 'You're Invited' podcast coffee mug:

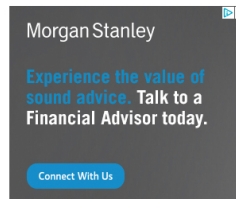
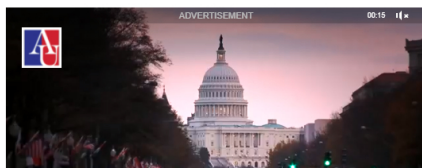
[CEIPRST](#) > **CREPIT**: Not fallen apart yet. “Oh, no, Grandma’s very crepit. ‘Arrhythmia’ is just the name of her dance team.” (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

[AAEPPRT](#) > **PAP ART**: My OB/GYN is so skilled, she doesn’t just make a “smear” . . . (*Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.*)

EEHMORT > MEH: Honorable mentions

[AABCELN](#) > **ABC LANE**: That’s how you get to Sesame Street. (*Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.*)



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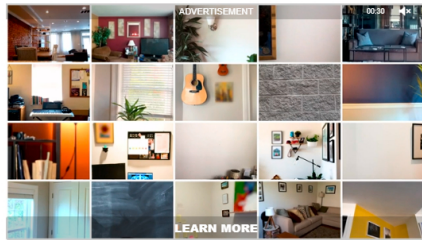
AABGINT > **BANGIT**: When you can't decide between "damnit" and "---- it," this'll do. (*Jamie Martindale, Samut Prakan, Thailand*)

AABGINT > **ANTIBAG**: Someone who'll carry 20 items out of the supermarket in his hands rather than paying the nickel. (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn; Bill Dorner, Indianapolis; Tanja Cilia, Santa Venera, Malta*)

AAEGNPT > **PANGATE**: An all-encompassing scandal engulfing an entire administration. (Sorry, I can't think of an example.) (*Jeff Contompasis*)

AAEGNPT > **NAPGATE**: A leaked photo of the president nodding off at his desk will be remembered as the biggest scandal of the Biden administration. (*Jamie Martindale; Bill Dorner*)

AAEGNPT > **NEATGAP**: The difference in tidiness between you and your significant other. "With my ex, the neatgap was a chasm lined with dirty socks." (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)



AAEGPSS > **GPaSS**: The guy who insists that his phone knows better than you do how to get to your house. (*Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore*)

AAEGPSS > **AGE PASS**: What you give to Great-Aunt Erma with a sigh when she starts with the cutting comments. (*Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.*)

AAEPPT > **PEATRAP**: Just like a piehole, but daintier. (*Richard Franklin, Alexandria, Va.*)

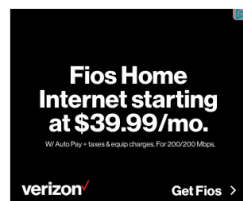
AAEPPT > **PRE-TAPA**: The Big Mac you eat before going for small plates. (*Jim Derby, Gettysburg, Pa.*)

AALNSTY > **ANTSIAL**: Nervous Nellie's significant other. (*Jeff Loren, Seattle*)

AALNSTY > **LA NASTY**: You've heard of "Boston Strong"? Well . . . (*Todd DeLap, Fairfax, Va.*)

AALNSTY > **SATANLY**: What you might answer if someone asked if you wanted those new [Lil Nas X black and red sneakers](#). (*Stephen Dudzik, Olney, Md.*)

AALNSTY > **ANALYST**: A professional who can explain why the first thing you saw in this ScrabbleGram was ANAL STY (*Kate Baughman, Arlington, Va., a First Offender*)



ABDGINW > **WINBAG**: Someone who can't stop talking about the election that was "stolen" from him. (*Lawrence McGuire; Jesse Frankovich*)

ACELNPU > **UNCLE PA**: Villainous character in "Hamlet of the Ozarks." (*Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.*)

ACLOOPR > **LOCO APR**: What the car dealership offered on its "Crazy Cinco de Mayo Sales Event!!" (*Dave Silberstein, College Park, Md.*)

ACLOOPR > **POOL ARC**: The trajectory of your backyard investment from family novelty to neighborhood gathering spot to scum-green frog-breeding pond/money pit. (*Lawrence McGuire*)

ADINSTT > **STANDIT**: The most difficult part of a job: If you can't, you quit. (*Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.*)

AEEINTV > **AIEE-TV**: 24 hours of horror movies, bungee jumping and roller coasters. (*Ken Gallant, Sequim, Wash.; Leif Picoult, Rockville, Md.*)

AEGMNR > **GRAMNET**: What your kids call Facebook. (*Milo Sauer, Fairfax, Va.; Mark Raffman*)



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AENPRRT > **ENTARP:** What to do when “entomb” is not immediately feasible. (*Deanna Busick*)

AENPRRT > **PERTNAR:** Almost. “I’m pertnar through putting up with yer lip.” (*Jon Gearhart, Des Moines*)

AENPRRT > **PRATNER:** Stan, to Ollie. (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.*)

AOPRSTW > **WAP-O’s:** The hot new cereal endorsed by Cardi B & Megan Thee Stallion. (*Jamie Martindale*)

AOPRSTW > **AWSPORT:** Kindergarten soccer, or the Puppy Bowl. (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

BELMORT > **BRO-MELT:** A “grilled” cheese sandwich that’s heated up in the “press” of an armpit. (*Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.*)

CEOPRTT > **PET ROT:** An extremely fleeting novelty toy consisting of googly eyes pasted on a ball of garbage. (*Frank Osen*)

DGIOPRY > **DIG-PRY:** A nosy question that also manages to be an insult. “So what did you pay for that interesting, um — I guess that’s a purse?” (*Ellen Ryan, Rockville, Md.*)



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DGIOPRY > **GOD-PRY:** “So tell me: Have you been saved?” (*Roy Ashley, Washington*)

DGIOPRY > **PODIGY:** An amazing remote-schooled student who actually learned something during the pandemic. (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

DGIOPRY > **GOD-RIP:** You know how when you were a kid they told you that thunder is the sound of the Lord bowling? Well, it’s not. (*Danielle Nowlin*)

DGLNOUY > **UNDOGLY:** Frustratingly untrainable, like a cat. (*Adie Peña, Makati, Philippines*)

EEHMORT > **METR’OH!** Abbreviation for “I knew I should have just driven to work today!” (*Mark Raffman*)

EEILNNT > **ENLINT:** What my dryer does to my socks. (*George Thompson, Springfield, Va.*)

EFHIRSY > **HEIRSY:** A belief that appalls your parents. “George Jr. was written out of the will after admitting the heirsy of voting for him in 2016 AND 2020.” (*Richard Franklin*)




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ILMNOOT > **LOIN-TO:** A love shack. (*Tom Witte*)

ILMNOOT > **MILTOON:** “Paradise Lost,” the Classics Illustrated version. (*Jim Derby; Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg*)

And Last: ACLOOPR > **CORPOLA:** Useless items emblazoned with advertising. “She calls them ‘limited-edition Bob Staake artwork,’ but aren’t those magnets really just cheap corpola with the Washington Post logo on them?”

(Jon Gearhart)

And Even Laster, by too many people to credit: *ACELNPU* > **PUNACLE**: What Invite contestants strive to reach.

Still running — deadline Monday night, April 19: Our contest about what will change post-pandemic.
See wapo.st/invite1431.

DON'T MISS AN INVITE! [Sign up here](#) to receive a once-a-week email from the Empress as soon as The Style Invitational and Style Conversational go online every Thursday, complete with links to the columns.

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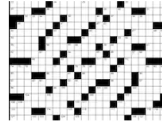
Pat Myers Follow

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.

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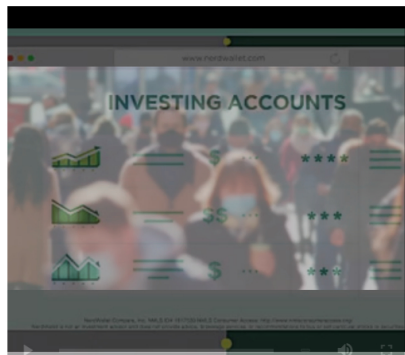
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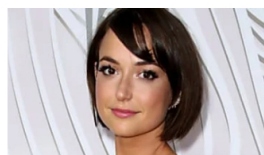


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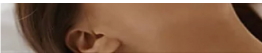
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