

# The Invitational Week 28: Put It in Bee-verse

Write a funny poem using a spelling bee word. Plus compare/contrast winners.

[PAT MYERS](#)

AND

[GENE WEINGARTEN](#)

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How is a tiny Shriner motorcycle like Mike Pence's presidential campaign? See today's Invitational results below. (Big Dave Diode/Flickr)

## The Invitational Week 28: Could You Put That in a Poem, Please?

It's something that one's been obliged to bestow.

The word, Latin-rooted, is *oblatio*.

It should be for a thing one might legally owe,

Not, say, for the act of fellatio.

The current *Webster's Third International Dictionary*, the 12½-pound unabridged print version, boasts more than 470,000 entries, from *a* to *zyzzogeton*. And in its ever more daunting struggle to trip up its astonishing tweens, this year's National Spelling Bee delved into that volume's most obscure recesses. Let's play with them.

**In this week's Invitational contest, Week 28: Write a humorous poem or tell a short joke (e.g., a riddle) using any word from Round 4 or later in the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee.** The real meaning of the word should be clear, from context alone or by definition, as in the Czar's example above — one we're pretty sure will never be included in the Bee study packet. [The Bee's website](#) doesn't supply the meanings, but you can find them at [m-w.com](#) or by Googling, or just choose a word from the sample list below with oversimplified meanings (but links to the actual listings).

- You may use a slightly different form of the word (e.g., plural, past tense).
- Be sure to use the *correct* spelling of the word, which appears on the list to the left of however the kid spelled it in competition, correctly or not.

*A few words from the lists (but choose from dozens more here in Rounds 4 through 15:*

**Psammophile** (silent P): An organism that prefers or thrives in sandy soils or areas (this year's final word).

**Chumble:** To gnaw or chew.

**Ovination:** Vaccination against sheep-pox by introducing sheep-pox to the body

**Querken:** To choke someone

**Pridian** (pri-DEE-an): Relating to yesterday or a previous day; former

**Cnemis** (nee-mis): tibia; plural is cnemides

**Oblatio** (o-BLAY-shee-oh): A payment for something that is owed

**Leguleian:** (leg-yu-LEE-an) [*definition from [a legal glossary](#)*] A type of lawyer who is known for being petty and argumentative. They often focus on small details and technicalities rather than the bigger picture.

**Sorge** (SOAR-guh): Concern, care bordering on anxiety (German for worry)

**Aegagrus** (ee-GAG-rus): Another name for a bezoar, a hard mass that can form in the intestine and once thought to have magical properties

**Rommack** (ROMMick): To play boisterously, to romp

**Haysel** (HAY-s'l): The haying season

**Eukinetics** (YOU-kinetics): The science of well-controlled body movement, such as dancing (takes a singular verb)

**Ebauchoir** (Ayy-bo-shwar): A chisel used for rough-hewing sculpture, as for a clay model

**Nudicaul** (nude-i-call): Having leafless stems

**Opacate** (either o-PAY-cate or O-pa-cate): To make opaque

**Click here for this week's entry form**, or go to **bit.ly/inv-form-28**. As usual, you can submit up to 25 entries for this week's contest, preferably all on the same entry form. As with all our poetry/song contests, we make an exception to the one-line-per-entry rule: **Just format the poems as they ought to look on the page**. If you have multiple entries, it wouldn't hurt to add a line of \*\*\* or —

- or <<<<<<<< etc. between the poems, since sometimes white space disappears on this end.

**Deadline is Saturday, July 22, at 4 p.m. ET.** Results will run here in The Gene Pool on Thursday, July 27.

**This week's winner** receives a high-quality pair of **striped Wicked Witch of the East over-the-knee socks**, complete with “ruby slippers” as the feet. You can reenact the scene from *The Wizard of Oz*: Just put on the socks and lie on your back, and put a house on top of yourself. Donated by Universal Donor Dave Prevar.





This week's really most sincerely first prize. (sockysock.com)

**Runners-up get autographed fake money featuring the Czar or Empress, in one of [TEN nifty designs](#).** Honorable mentions get bupkis, except for a sweet email from the E, plus the [Fir Stink for First Ink](#) for those who've just lost their Invite virginity.

## **As You Liken It: Winning comparisons from Week 26**

In [Week 26](#) we continued our tradition of posting a list of random noun phrases and asking how any two were alike, different, or otherwise linked. A good one offered up by too many Losers: **Dryer lint** differs from **Mike Pence's presidential campaign** in that only one might catch fire.

*Third runner-up:* The difference between **Handel's *Messiah*** and **Mike Pence's presidential campaign**: In the first, the hallelujahs are transcending; in the other, they're trans-ending. (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

*Second runner-up:* The difference between **a bathroom chandelier** and **Handel's *Messiah***: *Messiah* only lasts through fifty-three movements. (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

*First runner-up:* **A visit to Antarctica**: "Oh man, breathe cold air!" **A bathroom chandelier**: An anagram of that. (*Jesse Frankovich, Laingsburg, Mich.*)

*And the winner of the [sandwich bags that look as if they're infested with mold and roaches](#):* The similarity between **a tiny Shriner motorcycle** and **Mike Pence's presidential campaign**: One is in danger of being squashed by a fat man in a silly red hat, and the other is ridden by a Shriner. (*Jon Carter, Fredericksburg, Va.*)

**Tiddly Links: Honorable mentions**

**A tiny Shriner motorcycle and Pence's campaign:** Both are absurd, but it's unlikely that the wheels will soon come off the motorcycle. *(Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.)*

**A bathroom chandelier and love handles:** Even when they're [in plain sight](#), Trump will deny he has either. *(Jon Carter)*

**A bathroom chandelier:** Tastelessness. **Love handles:** Waistlessness. *(Kevin Dopot, Washington, D.C.)*

**A bathroom chandelier and Pence's campaign:** If you ask a January 6 Trumpite, each offers something worth hanging. *(Kevin Dopot)*

**A box of chocolates:** Nougats. **Pence's campaign:** No guts. *(Neil Kurland, Elkridge, Md.)*

**A box of chocolates:** Russell Stover. **The front bumper of a '55 Cadillac:** Rust all over. *(Chris Doyle)*

**A box of chocolates is like a tiny Shriner motorcycle:** Both give you crushed nuts. *(Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)*

**A box of chocolates:** Sampler. **Love handles:** Amplifier. *(Steve Smith, Potomac, Md.)*

**An AI love letter and a palindrome:** The letter might begin, "Sore was I ere I saw Eros." *(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)*

**An AI love letter and Pence's campaign:** They will both test the communication skills of a robot. *(Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.; Jon Carter)*

**A palindrome and Pence's campaign:** "Stiff" fits. *(Pam Shermeyer, Lathrup Village, Mich.)*

... Or: "Dud." *(Jesse Frankovich)*



**A palindrome vs. a silent fart:** “A Butt tuba” can be just one of these. (*Laura Clairmont, Venice, Fla.; Steve Geist, Mechanicsville, Va.; Duncan Stevens*)

... Not to mention: Only one can be “a toot.” (*Neil Kurland*)

**Love handles and a palindrome:** Fat AF. (*Jesse Frankovich*)

**A visit to Antarctica and a silent fart:** Both are going to be a lot more tolerable if you have thick underwear. (*Jon Carter*)

**A visit to Antarctica and the Pence campaign:** Both are good activities if you don’t like crowds. (*Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore*)

**A visit to Antarctica** may originate in Chile, whereas **a silent fart** may originate in chili. (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.*)

Both **a bathroom chandelier** and **Pence’s campaign** shed light on Donald Trump’s crap. (*Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.*)

**Chat GPT 23 and the front bumper of a ’55 Cadillac:** Both will be viewed as quaint relics in 2024. (*Mark Raffman*)

**Handel’s Messiah:** Christ the Lord. **Love handles:** Christ, the lard! (*Jesse Frankovich*)

**Love handles:** Where you put your palms on a really good date. **The space between your eyebrows:** Where you put your palms on a really bad date. (*Jesse Frankovich*)

**Love handles and Pence’s campaign:** Only one is associated with the word “hip.” (*Leif Picoult, Rockville, Md.*)

**Pence’s campaign:** Asking for a job. **Chat GPT 23:** Axing your job. (*Kevin Dopart*)

**Pence’s campaign and dryer lint:** Someone with talent could mold the lint into something appealing. (*Kevin Dopart*)

**The front bumper of a '55 Cadillac and a silent fart:** Both sometimes precede skid marks. *(Steve Geist; Jon Carter)*

**The space between the eyebrows and love handles:** When you talk to women, it's better to look at the first than the second. Trust me on this. *(Chris Doyle)*

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light” is part of *Messiah*, but Handel probably wasn't thinking of a **bathroom chandelier**. *(Duncan Stevens)*

*The headline “As You Liken It” is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead.*

**Still running** — deadline 4 p.m. ET Saturday, July 8: **Our Week 27 contest to say how a particular company or organization might pander to the MAGA crowd.** [Click here](#) or type in [bit.ly/inv-week-27](https://bit.ly/inv-week-27).

**Live streaming for Elden Carnahan's memorial service**

If you can't make it to Saturday's memorial service for Father of Loserdom Elden Carnahan ([more about him here](#)), you should be able to see a live stream on YouTube [at this link](#) or at [bit.ly/eldenservice](https://bit.ly/eldenservice). The service begins Saturday, July 15, at 2 p.m. at Laurel Presbyterian Church, 7610 Old Sandy Spring Rd., Laurel, Md.

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