

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Spell Cheek: The acrostic 'reviews' from Week 1169

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1169** we asked you to "review" or otherwise describe a movie, book, play or TV show as an acrostic, or backronym — in which the first letters of the words spell out the name of the work.

4th place

THE SIMPSONS: To Homer, everything simple is most precious: sandwiches, oxygen, nuclear science . . . (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

3rd place

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO: Take "Hamilton's" example: Make a rap revival! It's antiquated, grabs exclusively old farts. Freshen it! Guaranteed audiences! Rap Opera! (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

2nd place and the 'Number Two Pencil' with poop motif:

PSYCHO: Peacefully showering, you're clean, happy . . . OMG!!! (Stephen Gold, Glasgow, Scotland)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

GAME OF THRONES: George, act motivated! Expectations of finished tomes have readers overanalyzing nearly every scene! (Kurt Stahl, Frederick, Md.)

Lackronyms:

Honorable mentions

THE WEST WING: TV's habitual escapism: Wise executive solves the world's issues — no gridlock! (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: The Hebrews exit (Thanks, Egypt — not!), complaining: "Oy! Moses! Manna again!" Nice desert. Man emotes next to Sinai. (Stephen Gold)

TWILIGHT: Twit woman inspired love in gorgeous hunks? Typical! (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

THE AMERICANS: Two hairpiced expert apparatchik moles evade Reagan's illustrious CIA as nation sleeps. (Paul Comstock, Lancaster, Pa.)

BATMAN: Bruce appreciates that manservant Alfred's nonjudgmental. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?: Washed-up historian overdoes sadistic *amore*. Frump retaliates, and in devilishly overt flirtation vivifies irresistible rookie geometry instructor. (No, it's algebra. Whatever.) Offspring offed. Lasciviously Freudian! (Barry Brennessel, Silver Spring, Md.)

FAST AND FURIOUS: Forget about story — there's absolutely none. (Does feature unnecessary racing, incessant overdrive, underdressed starlets.) (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

BRIAN'S SONG: Bro relations in action. Next, see sobbing of normal guys. (Steve McClemons, Arlington)

ATLAS SHRUGGED: "Altruism's totally lame!" Ayn says. Selfish hero's rant: unbelievably gassy. Grimly earnest didacticism. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

BAMBI: Blam! And Mama bites it! (Hildy Zampella)

DELIVERANCE: Dang, everyone loves interesting vacations. (Exceptions: river abductions, nightmarish carnal encounters.) (Frank Mann, Washington)

MAGIC MIKE: Matrons are going in crowds; men, insecure, keep exiting. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

WAR AND PEACE: Wow — avoid Russia! After Napoleon's defeat, proletariat's enraged about cake eating! (Mike Ostapiej, Mount Pleasant, S.C.)

WAR AND PEACE: Who actually reads all ninety dozen pages? Eggheads — and counterfeit eggheads. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

STAR TREK: "Space, the area remaining to research Enterprisingly." — Kirk (Jon Gearhart)

BLAZING SADDLES: Beans launch a zanyly incomparable natural gas symphony, all during dastardly losers' eating scene. (Melissa Balmain)

E.T.: Extra tissues! (Michael Seese, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, a First Offender)

FEAR FACTOR: Folks eating aborted rat fetuses and cockroaches to obtain riches! (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1173: Tinker with the recipe

Spaghetti-Z's: Okay, not the most exciting dinner in a can ...

Gif: Peanut butter that you'll keep eating and eating and eating ...

Weedies: The more of this cereal you eat, the hungrier you get.

Bristle sprouts: Clean out your insides with the highest-fiber vegetable around.

Go ahead, play with your food. **This week:** Slightly change the name of a food or brand of food (or something else in the food industry) and describe it, or write a slogan, jingle, etc. By "slightly change," we mean you shouldn't have to explain to the Empress what the product was in the first place. We've done this contest once before, back in 2009, but there's a lot of food out there; we're sure you can give us a whole new menu. (See this week's Style Conversational column, at bit.ly/conv1173, to see what got ink in Week 845; you may reuse an inking name as long as you give a significantly different description.)

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, of course, food — *two* foods: first, a can of genuine Korean silkworms, picked up by the Empress at the Lotte supermarket in Springfield, Va., but given a pass by the Royal Consort; and, because we know that the second-place finisher didn't want that ugly ol' Inkin' Memorial anyway, an actual jar of genuine imported sour grapes.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" mug or a vintage Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Magnet Dum Laude" or "Falling Jest Short." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Email entries to losers@washpost.com. Deadline is Monday night, May 9; results published May 29 (online May 26). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1173" in your email 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/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Chris Doyle. 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; 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, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Silkworms and sour grapes: The Loser Gourmet Prize Pack for this week's second-place finisher.

THE ART OF THE DEAL: Trump has excellent advice related to overcompensating for tiny hands, exhorting: "Don't ever apologize, loser!" (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

HAROLD AND MAUDE: He's a really odd lad dating a nutball decades more aged — "Until death" etc. (Melissa Balmain)

DIE HARD: Detective in edifice has a rough day. (Jesse Frankovich)

SPIDER-MAN: Some putz in dorky ensemble resembles macho arachnid ninja. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

APOCALYPSE NOW: A psychotic, obsessive colonel — astonishingly loony yet profoundly shrewd — elects neurosis over war. (Frank Mann)

LOLITA: Lyin' on Lyon in the afternoon. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

THE BIBLE: "Theological hokum! Egregious babble! Inspid balderdash!" Lord exclaims, OR "Thanks! Helps elucidate Book's insights brilliantly!" Lord exults.

(Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

GENESIS: Gullible Eve naively enjoys snack, initiating sin. (Jesse Frankovich)

TAXI DRIVER: Travis's anger x Iris's debasement results in virtually ending Reagan. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

GIGLI: Gosh, it's godawful — love it! (Chris Doyle)

THE BIG BANG THEORY: They have every big-IQ geek bummed. Aren't nerdy geeks trendy? Here, everyone only radiates "yeesh!" (Todd DeLap, Fairfax, Va.)

CLEOPATRA: Critics laud Elizabeth's other performance: adding to Richard's amours. (Chris Doyle)

UGLY BETTY: Univisionesque girl lets you believe energy, talent triumph. Yuck. (Kevin Dopart)

Still running — deadline Monday night, May 2: our contest to write something using only the words appearing in "American Pie." See bit.ly/invite1172.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY TONY ORBACH © 2016 CROSSYENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS

1 "___ is gorges" (Cornell college town saying)

7 Pacino movie whose poster is displayed in many "MTV Crits" homes

15 Son of Poseidon

16 Like the heaviest light-duty truck

17 With wisdom

18 Proprietary

19 Iconographic nimbi

21 County west of Dublin

22 Car ad adjective phrase

25 "Born on the Bayou" band, briefly

26 Passé

27 Throwback pop?

28 Church support

30 Pub array

32 Making a choice

34 Certain undergrad

35 Trig ratio

36 Pet aisle brand

40 "Champagne" King

42 Clarinet key

43 Peeve

45 "Uh-uh"

47 Hermana de la madre

48 Nat ___ (cable channel)

49 "Start, already!"

52 Gas giant passed by Voyager 2 in 1989

54 Snob

55 Catastrophic Civil War battle site

57 Quantity

60 Like a squat wineglass

61 Consolidated

62 Basis for a wife's punny list

63 Collateral

2 Singsong syllable

3 Evade a tackler, in a way

4 Bothered

5 Tumbler narrower than a highball

6 Teacher's follow-up question after no hands are raised, perhaps

7 Indy letters

8 Singer Khan whose name is rapped in her 1984 song "I Feel for You"

9 Creative

10 Lands, in a way

11 Manage

12 Pin, say

13 Compel

14 Rear-___

20 Ashcan or Hudson River

22 Line items?

23 Ireland's features a Celtic harp design

24 Go through the motions in a music video?

29 Worker's weekly exclamation

31 Six Flags visitor's exclamation

33 Domingo, Carrera, and Pavarotti, famously

35 Firmed up

37 Length in a geometric figure from its top to its opposite side

38 Wall's opposite, in economic discourse

39 Without a date

41 In an unclear way

42 Flatters

43 Taken care of

44 Listicle format, often

46 Complement for a seersucker suit, perhaps

48 Grind

50 Needle

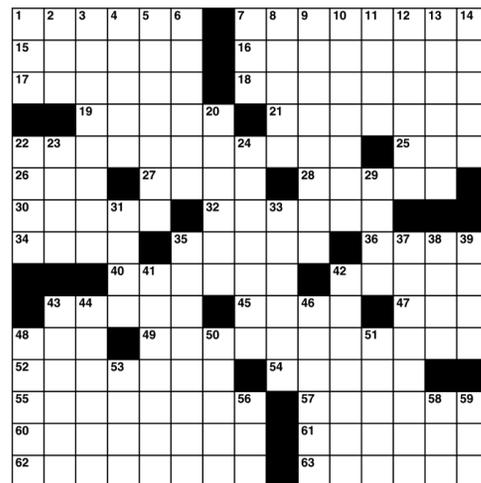
51 Mentholated smokes

53 Proctor's call

56 Counselor's deg.

58 Take home

59 TE's coups



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | May 1: This year you often find yourself entangled in financial investments or schemes. Use your good sense and check out offers carefully. Working with another person directly, no matter what that person's role in your life is, could frequently trigger resentment or anger. If you are attached, romance and passion infuse your interactions. You may opt to take the next step in your relationship. Many of you could suddenly find that there is a new addition on the way. Make sure that you are up for this bundle of joy. Pisces can be an excellent and sensitive friend to you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You might find that this day is perfect for a walk or picnic in the mountains or by a river. You might be in a state of reverie, admiring your surroundings. A loved one tries to get your attention.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Reach out to your friends. Before you know it, you'll have too many offers or suggestions, as far as plans go. Expect to be out and about, whether it is a ballgame or some other pastime.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Reach out for someone and listen to your sixth sense. How you deal with another person could radically change as a result of a misunderstanding.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Reach out for someone at a distance. You might be feistier than you think with the majority of

people today. As a result, should you recognize this behavior, take some downtime.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You relate best on a one-on-one level. A child or new friend becomes irritable and difficult. Sometimes you try too hard to lighten his or her mood. Let this person sit with his or her mood and work it through.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Defer to a close friend or loved one. Allow others to express their preferences. A lot of caring surrounds this person, no matter what the conversation is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Be aware of another person's caring. This person cannot hide it, and it warms up your life considerably. Your intuition kicks in when you least anticipate it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You can nearly work with anything no matter what the situation may be. Your creativity and good humor emerge when dealing with a new friend and/or a child.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You might want to rethink a decision more carefully, especially as you have the attention of a good friend who is discriminating and thoughtful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You share your opinions with a child, friend or new loved one. You feel as if you are responding to an issue this person has. Stay as neutral as you can and avoid any arguments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Note that a more possessive side emerges when dealing with someone you care about. How you handle a personal matter when you are slightly irritated with a family member will affect long-run interactions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You see the end results of being sensitive to a loved one, as well as a friend. You could be irritated with an older person or authority figure who keeps making demands. Just let go for now and get past the issue.

Teen's bad attitude may mask worries

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I've been dealing with epilepsy for more than 20 years. I'm currently

planning surgery to possibly prevent future seizures. I know this is difficult for my husband and teenage daughter to have to live with and accept. I try to be as positive so as not to bring others down.

I'm not allowed to drive, several prescriptions are beginning to affect my memory and I repeat myself often. My daughter isn't old enough for her driver's license, so Dad takes over as the family driver.

My daughter always responds to me in a negative way, angrily shrugging her shoulders with an agitated reply. Anything I say is argued, corrected or simply tagged as wrong. I'm afraid to bring up conversations with her to avoid the embarrassing skepticism. I feel like she doesn't want me here; her dad alone is sufficient.

Is she just being a teenager, and do I have to accept her behavior as part of growing up? Is she subconsciously preparing for negative results from the surgery?

Incompetent Mom

Incompetent Mom: Your daughter is behaving like a typical teen, but in a stressful and atypical situation. Some of her anger toward you might be an honest expression of how put out she is that you aren't well (teenagers tend to see the world primarily from the vantage of how it affects them). But her anger toward you might also be a function of how worried and anxious she is about your very serious illness and surgery.

You and your husband should call a "family meeting," to talk to your daughter about your upcoming surgery. She may roll her eyes, or jones for her phone (all phones should be off), but she will also be listening to you. If you engage her through honest information but discuss your illness's impact on her, she will feel included and validated. Ask if she has questions. She may respond with snark, but she will leave the table knowing that you care about her and are trying hard to communicate.

Stay open to her and be tolerant and forgiving, without being a doormat.

Dear Amy: Last spring, our

two adult daughters (as well as my wife and I) received "Save the Date" cards from a childhood friend of the girls, announcing her summertime wedding. Months later, one daughter received an invitation; the rest of us did not.

We have since learned that this practice of notifying friends of the impending event is increasing in popularity, but that actual invitations sometimes fail to show up.

Is there an etiquette protocol established for this?
Wondering About Rules

Wondering About Rules: If you received a "Save the Date" card for a wedding, you should then have received an invitation to the wedding. Otherwise, what are you being asked to "save the date" for, precisely?

When you didn't receive the invitation, it would have been appropriate to inquire about it.

Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.
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