

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

'Rick & roll: Songs recast as limericks

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1441 we asked you to recast or comment on the lyrics to a well-known song as a limerick. In the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1445, each song includes a link to the actual lyrics for comparison (plus many extra entries).

4th place:

Jesus Take the Wheel
Though I truly am glad I'm alive,
I need guidance to help me to thrive.
Please, my Savior and Lord,
Take the wheel of my Ford
(Which I trust that you know how to drive).
(Mark Raffman, Reston)

3rd place:

Puff the Magic Dragon
Puff the dragon was king of the hill.
Jackie loved him immensely — until
Like a typical boy
He grew bored with the toy,
And poor Puff ended up at
Goodwill.
(Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

2nd place and the finger-shaped wall hooks:

It's a Small World
We humans are too apt to fight;
Let's work out a way to unite.
There's a song we all hate,
So no need for debate!
Now that's a small world, am I right?
(Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

The Star-Spangled Banner
'Twas our second time fighting the British
They had hoped we'd be fatally skittish
But we stayed through the night
And we won the last fight —
Now of despots we're finally rid(ish)
(Emma Daley, Harrisburg, Pa.)

Hickory dickory dorks: Honorable mentions

Over the Rainbow
Poor Dorothy asks with a cry,
"If birds can fly, why then can't I?"
How sweetly she sings!
But she doesn't have wings,
And to answer her question: That's why.
(Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

The Alphabet Song
When it comes to reciting my letters,
I'm one of my preschool's go-getters!
From A straight to Z,
I am loud and on key!
Come and sing with me, fellow bed-wetters!
(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

American Pie
We mourned the defunct music's parting,
As Chevys to levees were darting.
Boys drank booze there, you know,
A long, long time ago,
Like, way back when this song was just starting.
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Louie, Louie
After all of the trouble it took
Giving lyrics a listen and look,
A contrite FBI
Told us "Louie, Louie"
Was in fact simply gobbledygook.
(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

That's Amore
When a lunar light lands in your eyeball
Like DiMaggio's hardest-hit flyball,
To compare it to love
Coming down from above
Is at best (like this rhyme) barely viable.
(Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

The Christmas Shoes
In December, a boy in a store
With a gift for his mom to adore
Said he needed it quick
As his mother was sick
And that Jesus might care what she wore.
(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

My Shot
Rise up for the U.S. of A.
Spell my name 'cause you'll know it someday
King George is so crappy
I'm hungry and scrappy
My shot I will not throw away
(Neal Phillips, Wyndmoor, Pa., a First Offender)

(You're) Having My Baby
That she's pregnant you clearly can see
And she's glowingly thrilled, you agree
And it's certain — not maybe —
She's having my baby
Since of course it is all about me.
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

The Star-Spangled Banner
Keeping watch through a long night of peril and



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New for Week 1445: Put it in bee-verse — poems with spelling words

NEROLI OIL (*pronounced NERoli*)
**Neroli, we roll it on,
That oil so redolent of orange.
Your scars (they say) will soon be gone!
That's fine, but it can't make this rhyme.**

Delayed for a year and then a couple of months, the latest Scripps National Spelling Bee — as always — provided a nail-biting showdown and a display of astonishing feats of memory, knowledge, concentration and poise among a passel of middle-schoolers who'll, alas, never have a chance to see almost any of these words used outside the competition hive . . .

WAIT! They will! Thanks to The Style Invitational.

This week: Write a humorous poem of eight lines or fewer that includes at least one of the words used in Round 8 or later of this year's bee, as in the example above from Round 17.

OR: Write a joke in Q&A form that uses at least one of the words.

At least for the poems, you must use the word with its real meaning and pronunciation; you can't pretend it's something else. You may use a slightly different form of the word, such as a plural, adding "-ing," etc. You may add a title, and the word might appear only in the title.

To see the words: Go to spellingbee.com/round-results, then click on any of the rounds from 8 to 18. If you don't want to look up those words and then their meanings and pronunciations, check out my list of 25 of the words in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1445.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1445 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, July 26; results appear Aug. 15 in print, Aug. 12 online.



Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a "stress reliever" squeeze toy in the shape of a bathroom scale. So if your real scale makes you cranky, you squeeze the toy instead of smashing the scale into your bathtub. Donated by Dave Prevar.

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 "Rick and roll" was submitted by Great Minds Kevin Dopart, Chris Doyle and Jesse Frankovich; Jeff Contompasis and William Kennard send 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, in which the E shares some earlier spelling bee poems, at wapo.st/conv1445.

The "You're Invited" podcast: More than a dozen half-hour episodes, including dish from the Empress and Czar, and tips from top Losers. See bit.ly/invite-podcast.

The firing proved not to be sterile and inspired a ditty
Of our flag waving, pretty,
O'er some ramparts near
Baltimore, Maryland.
(Beryl Benderly, Washington)

Joy to the World
"Is it sensible? Well, that depends,
But I'll say till my very life ends
That the world's made for joy!"
Well of course you would, boy,
Having oenophile bullfrogs for friends.
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

Baby Shark
If your child is younger than 2,
A familiar song in your queue
Will get stuck in your head,
Haunt you late nights in bed:
Baby shark, doo doo doo doo doo doo.
(Bryana Neff, Warrington, Pa., a First Offender)

Every Breath You Take
If you really are trying to sweep her
Off her feet 'cause you think she's
a keeper,
Don't sing her this song!
It's so lyrically wrong!
(Unless you, too, are kind of a creeper.)
(Craig Dykstra, Centreville, Va.)

Uptown Funk
All my marvelous moves are top-notch
As I wiggle and jiggle my crotch.
Uptown funk, it is true,
Gonna give it to you —
If you do not believe me, just watch!
(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Both Sides, Now
Are clouds angel hair as they flow?
Illusions for life as we grow?
I've cried and I've laughed;
Now friends think I'm daft!
I really don't know life no mo'.
(Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Baby's Got Back
My dream woman? She's
callipygian;
You might say that that's my religion.
An amply grown rear —
No dieting here —
Full-size and complete — no abridgin'!
(Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1445.

Still running — deadline Monday night, July 19: Alter the name of a sport and make a new one. See wapo.st/invite1444.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"FLIP-FLOPS"
By MARYELLEN UTHLAUT

ACROSS
1 Wretched
7 Mount Rainier gateway
13 Hoops statistic
19 Taste
20 In favor of
21 Ary
22 The drive-through diner scene that was cut became a
24 Right after this
25 Fail garden?
26 Riverbank residue
27 Parisian season
28 Vote of support
29 What Jill has that Jack doesn't?
30 Break
31 Stab
32 1956 title film monster
34 Smart
36 The girls who spent the night prioritized chat time at the
41 LP's 33 1/3
44 Browsing annoyances
45 Wordless agreement
46 Sugary ending
47 Reduce
48 Long
50 Shot ___ competitive event
51 Privileged people
53 When the dog got loose, some house plants —
57 False front
63 Get into
64 What a stationary orrery part may represent
65 Clarifying Latin words
67 Grew dimmer
68 Sweetens, as yarns
70 Iraqi currency
72 Modified for the better
74 Private
75 Barely sufficient
77 Stroke that makes a rally irrelevant
78 Surrealist German-French painter
79 Gazes fixedly
81 The casual quarterback made an ___
86 Expand
88 Bossy utterance
89 African capital on the 30th parallel

90 "It is a ___ told by an idiot": Macbeth
94 What chatty tongues do?
95 Poke fun at
96 Mrs., in Madrid
98 Apply a new hue to
99 A navel ring is a piercing one may ___
105 It has pipes and keys
106 Source of some overhead footage
107 Apple operating system
108 Hadrian's defense
112 Follow (along) closely
113 "It totally happened!"
115 Memorable first name in soccer
116 Small racer
117 Sailing
118 Indicating stress
120 The fast-learning police cadet had the ___

123 Most trifling
124 Fail to take seriously
125 Red-skinned root
126 Current events?
127 Soaked through
128 Demands and gets

DOWN
1 Following
2 Business end of an ax
3 "North and South" trilogy author John ___
4 Track contests
5 Bill's partner
6 Confided in
7 Showing strain
8 One lining up for food?
9 Took care of the food
10 Strong speaker
11 Be resourceful
12 Prez on a penny
13 Feeling it after a workout
14 Lusters
15 Honorary title
16 Picnic pitcherful

17 NBA's Steph Curry, frequently
18 Early photograph
20 Sea anemone, e.g.
23 Gives out
28 "___ of robins ...": Kilmer
33 Refrains from
35 The Eiger, for one
37 Secure, as a job or a role
38 "Gae ___": James Brown biopic
39 Choose at the polls
40 Shipping hazard
41 Bread-making grain
42 Locket, for one
43 Singer/actress known as the "Queen of Pop"
49 Cause to become
50 Mae West's "I used to be Snow White, but I drifted," e.g.
51 Icelandic literary work
52 Sidelong glance

54 Consume
55 Kitty
56 Beethoven's ___
58 Response to the sublime
59 Largest English-speaking country
60 Google operating system
61 Cook, as much county fair fare
62 Announcer Hall
66 Gauge on the dash
68 Opposite of trans
69 Hot temper
70 Inane
71 Lowdown
73 "Give ___ minute"
76 Often "old" eccentric
77 Big deal
80 Like fireplace logs
82 Within
83 Plant stem joint
84 Final Four org.
85 Moriarty, to
87 ___ longlegs
90 Cheat on one's sweet, say

91 Freshened up, in a way
92 Slowpoke
93 Often titled stretch
95 Massaged
96 Excalibur, e.g.
97 Put back as it was
100 Not sensible
101 Pecorino ___ cheese
102 ___ Kingdom
103 Laughing
104 Its capital is Kigali
109 Gelatin garnish
110 "Not in the ___"
111 Framework strips
114 Book after John
116 Nine-time U.S. skating champ
Michelle
119 Gift with an aloha
120 Brief
afterthoughts
121 Metal source
122 Become more intense, as the moon

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 18: You are energetic and forceful. You are also compassionate and caring; nevertheless, you're not afraid to make a first move. Issues matter for you. This year the pace will be faster. It's a happier year for you, and it's also a year of a major choice. You will be candid with others because you've decided it's time to speak your truth.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Scorpio.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Keep an eye on banking issues and anything to do with shared property because something unexpected might impact these areas today. Expect parties, sports and fun times with kids in the next four weeks ahead. Your creative juices will flow.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Today you are emotionally excitable and impulsive. Or perhaps you will encounter someone who is like this. For the month ahead, your focus is on home, family and your private life. Real estate issues might be important.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Something might disrupt your work today. Be mindful of your pet, because something unexpected could happen. Get better organized. Your daily pace will accelerate this week and for the next four weeks. Enjoy short trips, conversations plus more reading and writing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Parents should be vigilant, because this is an accident-prone day for their kids. Social plans also might suddenly change. Socialize and be friendly. For the next four weeks, you will focus much more on earnings, cash flow and making money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your home routine will be interrupted today. Be patient with family members. Relax at home. This week the Sun moves into your sign to stay for four weeks. It's all about you, dear Leo. Goodies and favors will come your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Pay attention to everything you say and do, because this is an accident-prone day for your sign. Talk to a relative. Keep a low profile in the next four weeks and make goals for your new year ahead (birthday to birthday).

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Keep an eye on your money. Check your bills and protect your possessions today. Take care of what you own. You will be more popular starting this week and for the next four weeks ahead. Share your dreams with others to get their feedback.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Because you seek excitement and stimulation, you might attract people who are quite different from your usual crowd today. Expect a favor. The Sun is at the top of your chart for the next four weeks shining a flattering light on you. Everyone is impressed with you even if you don't do anything different.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
This is a restless day for you. You have that feeling that you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. Enjoy solitude. Travel, further study and anything that can expand your horizons will appeal to you in the next four weeks. Do something different.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
A friend might surprise you today, or

you might meet someone who is a real character. Tonight: Enjoy a heart-to-heart talk with someone. The next four weeks will be more passionate than usual for you. You also will be focused on the wealth of someone else, as well as shared property, taxes, loans and mortgages.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Be patient with parents, bosses and the police, because they might do something that catches you off guard today. Be calm and don't be rebellious. You will need more sleep in the next four weeks, because this week the Sun moves opposite your sign. You also will be more involved in partnerships and close friendships.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Travel plans will suddenly change today. Stay flexible. Learn something new. As the Sun changes signs this week, it ushers in a four-week window where you want to get better organized. You want to work smart and be as efficient and productive as possible.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

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7/11/21