

Olive / Barfee

- 44 -

SPELLING BEE

(CHIP)

IT WILL RUIN YOUR COMPLEXION.
ALL BECAUSE OF MY UNFORTUNATE
ERECTION.
OH GOD

(this really is hurtful)
Oh.

BARFEE

See you next year.

(CHIP throws package of peanut M&Ms at Barfee.)

What are you nuts!

(sees what it is)

Nuts! You threw the yellow ones!

Will someone pick up the p-? I can't be near the peanuts!

(OLIVE comes and picks up the package. Gives it back to Chip.)

You could be disqualified for that--if you hadn't already been eliminated!

(RONA separates the kids.)

I guess it's okay for a

Did you know that if

(thinks about it)

Did you know that if
"William"?

Yeah but you can sw

Are these really the

Um. Yeah?

CHIP

You know something, Barf: I may have lost, but you are the biggest loser here.

(walks away)

BARFEE

Oh yeah? Well, that is a common misperception.

(CHIP holds up and shakes a bag or two of peanut M&M's to threaten Barfee.)

RONA grabs Chip and pulls him offstage.

CHIP and BARFEE shout ad-libs at each other as Chip exits [eg: Barfee-- "This is a bully-free zone" from the original set, by Beowulf Boritt, that had that sign visible on stage!]

Well you're also a r

Yeah? Thanks.

(OLIVE goes to j
"Olive." "I love." -

Start

OLIVE

Sorry about that--William, right? I'm Olive.

BARFEE

I know your name. Look, I do not need pity from a person named after a vegetable.

OLIVE

It's a fruit.

BARFEE

Well it's a disgusting fruit, and I can't keep them down.

#10 - Woe Is Me

(Adults re-enter.

Ladies and gentle
We have, home-sc

OLIVE

(this really is hurtful enough that she'll give up and walk away)

Oh.

BARFEE

I guess it's okay for a name though.

OLIVE

Did you know that if you switch the first two vowels in "Olive" it becomes "I love"?

BARFEE

(thinks about it)

Did you know that if you switch the first two vowels in "William" it becomes "William"?

OLIVE

Yeah but you can switch the next two—then it's "will aim."

BARFEE

Are these really the kind of things you think about?

OLIVE

Um. Yeah?

BARFEE

Okay.

I'm more of a science guy myself.

OLIVE

Well you're also a really great speller.

BARFEE

Yeah? Thanks.

(OLIVE goes to join the others. After they have parted)

"Olive." "I love." —That's so retarded.

end

#10 - Woe Is Me

(Adults re-enter.)

RONA

Ladies and gentlemen our final spellers. Let's give them a hand.
We have, home-schooled from the Basin, Leaf Coneybear.

minated!

est loser here.

aten Barfee.

Barfee - "This is a
that sign visible on

d after a vegetable.

Specific words rotate from list at discretion of actor playing PANCH (except when set cues).

The first audience volunteer is given a word we do expect them to spell correctly. Often "Jihad." The ideal word is one that the speller will get right but still seem smart in doing so. After definition and sentence given, volunteer generally gets this right and is applauded by cast and audience.)

PANCH

[Calls audience volunteer #2]

AUDIENCE VOLUNTEER TWO

(Rona comment, chosen at RONA's discretion, eg, Mr. Y is a prematurely gray ten year old.

The second volunteer is given a word we expect them to get wrong. (Eg: Pakapoo, Chinese lottery). However, if first audience volunteer has been eliminated, second volunteer is given an easy word, e.g, indigent, to try to ensure that three audience volunteers remain.

Whenever first audience volunteer gets out, the bell rings, PANCH gives correct spelling, and company sings "Goodbye" variation #1.)

SPELLERS

GOODBYE, YOU WERE GOOD BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH
SO PLEASE DON'T ASK WHY
SIMPLY SAY GOODBYE

(Variations on "Goodbyes" follow all audience members' exits.)

PANCH

Start

Mr. Barfee

BARFEE

- It's Barfee -

RONA

Mr. Barfee has a rare mucus membrane disorder

PANCH

LUGUBRIOUS

BARFEE

Yes, of course. Lugubrious, meaning extremely sad and droopy?

PANCH

More or less, yes.

UCTIONS **

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structions; in each

olunteer - what they're
fresh jokes each
H each night, based on
ides standbys that are

believes in the
ate at

's have been
what to ask for

BARFEE

A topic I am all too familiar with. One moment please.

*(Definition:
Puerto Rico*

RONA

Okay watch this technique - He calls it the Magic Foot, and he's the only one I've ever seen use it. He spells it out on the floor so he can get a visual and then speaks it out loud. Incredible.

Sentence e.g

There is sor

BARFEE

Lugubrious.
L-U-G-U - Lugu!
B-R-I-O-U-S -Lugubrious.

Miss Park.

PANCH

That is correct.

Marcy Park i
representativ

BARFEE

I know.

*(ad-libbed,
ooh - Natio*

PANCH

end

Beautiful co

[Calls Audience volunteer 3]

AUDIENCE VOLUNTEER THREE

RONA

(Rona comment, e.g. for bald person)

Mr. Z is recovering from headlice.

Miss Park tl

Phylactery.

PANCH

(This is a set slot, in that it must be an easy word. If a different word is desired, be sure it will still elicit protest. Easiest though is to keep this as scripted below.)

Yes.

Thank you

MEXICAN

CHIP, BARFEE & SCHWARZY

"either of t
worn on th

Mexican!

CHIP

Thank you

That's so easy!

PANCH

"Billy, put

Only the speller at the microphone may repeat the word.

(to audience volunteer)

Thank yo

Mexican.

That is co

Marcy/Chip

RONA

That is very impressive – especially the piano.

("especially the piano" meaning "not the table" that in Dan Knechtges and James Lapine's staging MARCY has karate-chopped in half at end of song)

PANCH

Miss Park the word is CAMOUFLAGE.

MARCY

Camouflage.

(to herself)

Dear Jesus, can't you come up with a harder word than that?

JESUS

(from offstage)

Of course I can, my child

#13 - Jesus

ALL

AAAAAHHHHHHHHH!

(JESUS appears, played by actor playing Chip.

MARCY is absolutely astounded to see him – none of her parochial education has prepared her for this.)

Start

MARCY

Jesus?

JESUS

Marcy?

MARCY

Hi!

(depending on casting, we sometimes replace with: Wow -- Jesus -- I knew you were Asian!)

JESUS

Hi.

MARCY

How are you?

JESUS

I'm good. Is that your prayer, Marcy, for a more difficult word?

Well yeah it was but now

I'm here for you now M

(convinced, she decides know)

Jesus... I was wonderin

What do you think wo

I don't know, but what

Of course not – but Me

(Beat as SHE looks at

You're saying it's up to

Yes, and also, this isn'

AAAAAHHHHHHHHH

Camouflage. C-A-M.

(still deciding)

F-L . . A . . J

(and as soon as she wrong) . . .

Z!! . . H!!! Camaflej

(Ding)

MARC

I BLEW THAT WORD.

I BLEW THAT WORD

PRAISE JESUS!

LIFE HAS SUCH POSSI

changes and James
ng)

MARCY

Well yeah it was but now that you're here can I ask for something better?

JESUS

I'm here for you now Marcy. *C'est pour toi que je suis ici.*

MARCY

(convinced, she decides to take this seriously and ask something she really would like to know)

Jesus... I was wondering what would happen if I didn't win today.

JESUS

What do you think would happen?

MARCY

I don't know, but what I mean is, would you be disappointed with me if I lost?

JESUS

Of course not—but Marcy? I also won't be disappointed with you if you win.

(Beat as SHE looks confused)

MARCY

You're saying it's up to me then?

JESUS

Yes, and also, this isn't the kind of thing I care very much about.

ALL

AAAAAHHHHHHH!

MARCY

Camouflage. C-A-M. . . O-U

(still deciding)

F-L. . . A. . . J

(and as soon as she dares miss the first letter, she takes more and more joy in getting it wrong) . . .

Z!! . . . H!!! Camaflajzh!

! education has

I knew you were

end

MARCY

GIRLS

I BLEW THAT WORD.

I BLEW THAT WORD

PRaise JESUS!

LIFE IS SUCH POSSIBILITY

SHE BLEW THAT WORD

PRaise JESUS!

Chip

PANCH

Miss Park, your word is QAIMAQAM.

PARK

Qaimaqam. A lieutenant or deputy in the Ottoman Empire. A rare exception to the Q-U rule. From the Turkish. Q-A-I-M-A-Q-A-M. Qaimaqam.

PANCH

That's remarkable.

PARK

And correct.

RONA

Miss Park is all business.

MARCY

(genuinely surprised to hear this is thought of her)

I am not.

PANCH

Mr. Tolentino.

CHIP [Generally Voiceover]

(caught up in his fantasy)

Marigold ...

Marigold Coneybear...

That's a really lovely sweater, Marigold...

PANCH

Chip. Chip. Chip!

CHIP

Sorry - is it my turn to spell?

PANCH

Yes!

RONA

A rare break in concentration from Mr. Tolentino

CHIP

Um, can you maybe skip me now and ask me two in a row later?

PANCH

Why would you want to do that?

CHIP

I'd rather not say?

You can either take you

I'll take my turn now.

Another excellent decis

TITTUP

What?

The word is: TITTUP.

Definition please.

It means "lively move
sound of horses hoov

Tittup. T...I...

(reluctantly, but he

T...U—Oh wait. Twc

(Ding)

I'm sorry, the correct

That's exactly what

But first you said ""

No, but, I wasn't su

#6 - Pandemonium

(can overlap abot

"If you start to spe

start

the exception to the

PANCH

You can either take your turn now or forfeit.

CHIP

I'll take my turn now.

RONA

Another excellent decision by the incumbent.

PANCH

TITTUP

CHIP

What?

PANCH

The word is: TITTUP.

CHIP

Definition please.

PANCH

It means "lively movement or behavior", or "to move restlessly." It refers to the sound of horses hooves - tittup, tittup, tittup.

CHIP

Tittup. T...I...

(reluctantly, but he knows it)

T...U—Oh wait. Two t's. You heard both, right? Backing up, T-I-T-T-U-P. Tittup.

(Ding)

PANCH

I'm sorry, the correct spelling is T-I-T-T-U-P. Tittup.

CHIP

That's exactly what I said.

PANCH

But first you said "T-I-T-U—Oh wait, two t's...

CHIP

No, but, I wasn't sure if you heard both t's. I obviously know how to spell it...

end

#6 - Pandemonium (Reprise)

PANCH

(can overlap above)

"If you start to spell a word you may start over..."

Coney

RONA

Miss Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre is head of the Gay-Straight Alliance at her elementary school.

PANCH

STRABISMUS

SCHWARZY

Strabismus. May I please have the definition of that word?

PANCH

"The inability of one eye to obtain binocular vision with the other because of an imbalance of the muscles of the eyeball."

SCHWARZY

And use in a sentence please?

PANCH

"In the schoolyard Billy protested that he wasn't cockeyed. 'I suffer from *strabismus*,' he said, whereupon the bullies beat him harder."

(As PANCH looks to RONA for approval, SCHWARZY is tracing the word on her arm with her finger.)

RONA

Notice how she writes on her forearm. This is her way to see the word before she speaks it out loud.

SCHWARZY

Strabismus. S-T-R-A-B-I-S-M-U-S. Strabismus.

PANCH

That is correct.
Mr. Coneybear.

RONA

Mr. Coneybear was second runner up in the Putnam Basin district.

(Phone rings. A flashback to the moment when he found out he's in. Actors rise as they assume roles.)

SCHWARZY as LEAF'S MOM

Brook, will you tell Leaf he has a phone call, please?

MARCY as LEAF'S SISTER

— start —

kes their way to
or purportedly

Leaf! Phone!

CONEYBEAR

Thanks! I got it!
Hello, Leaf speaking. Uh, huh. Uh, huh. Uh, huh.
You're kidding? I'm gonna represent the Basin in the bee? Wow, I can't believe it.



(As he calls his family members, kids rise taking on these roles. They also pull up the spellers to be "Paul" and other siblings. One audience volunteer is left seated. When this volunteer rises, she/he is told to sit back down again, providing a visual punchline to the sequence.)

Mom, Dad, Marigold, Brook, Pinecone, Raisin, Landscape, Paul, - you're not going to believe this!

BARFEE as LEAF'S DAD

What's up, Leaf?

LEAF

I made the county finals in the spelling bee!

(LEAF'S FAMILY laughs.)

SCHWARZY as MOM

Oh sweetheart, no, you came in third honey.

LEAF

I know! but they just called and said the person who came in first has to go to their bat mitzvah, and the person who came in second... has to attend the bat mitzvah, so they want me to do it!

SCHWARZY as MOM

You understand the other kids will have all won their district bees?

(FAMILY laughs.)

LEAF

Yeah but well but

PANCH

(calling Leaf's attention back)

CAPYBARA

CONEYBEAR

What?

PANCH

Your word is Capybara.

CONEYBEAR

Is that a word?

PANCH

That's a word, yes.

CONEYBEAR

No way - what does it mean?

"a tailless larg

Awesome. W

You're allow
a sentence...

Oh - can you

Yes. "Don't
foot rodent :

Wow, that d

Are you rea

No, but it v
(to family

Hi guys - n
(trance s

C-A-P-Y-B-

That is cor

It is?
I can't bel:

Miss Ostr

(as he r
It's unbel
really...

Shhh.

ny also pull up the
left seated. When
is a visual punchline

- you're not going

t has to go to their
the bat mitzvah, so

is?

PANCH

"a tailless largely aquatic South American rodent often exceeding four feet in length"

CONEYBEAR

Awesome. What else can I ask?

PANCH

You're allowed to ask for the word's language of origin or to have the word used in a sentence...

CONEYBEAR

Oh--can you use it in a sentence?

PANCH

Yes. "Don't look now Pedro but I think that tailless, largely aquatic four-and a half foot rodent swimming next to you may be a *copybara*."

CONEYBEAR

Wow, that didn't help at all!

PANCH

Are you ready to spell the word Mr. Coneybear?

CONEYBEAR

No, but it was fun to come here--

(to family in audience)

Hi guys--my whole family's here which is really...

(trance suddenly takes him)

C-A-P-Y-B-A-R-A Copybara.

PANCH

That is correct.

CONEYBEAR

It is?

I can't believe it.

end

PANCH

Miss Ostrovsky

CONEYBEAR

(as he returns to his seat)

It's unbelievable, I just said the first letters that came into my head, and that "y" was really...

ALL

Shhh.

Carl Dad / Schwartz

SCHWARZY

Hm. Are there any alternate definitions?

PANCH

Yes—it's a body of water pent up behind a floodgate.

SCHWARZY

Are there any alternate definitions?

PANCH

Why don't you quit stalling and spell the damn word!!

RONA

Principal Panch!

PANCH

Vice Principal Panch! Vice Principal! They won't let me be principal.

BARFEE

Gee, I wonder why.

SCHWARZY

(very upset, over the rest)

SLUICE. S-L-U-I-C-E. SLUICE!

RONA

That is correct.

(to Panch)

What is wrong with you?

(Ad-libs as MITCH pulls PANCH offstage with RONA assisting him.)

(different productions have handled this differently — in one Panch collapses and is pulled offstage, in another Panch continues fit and has to be subdued, or Panch approaches Mitch to get him to do something and Mitch pulls Panch off in headlock)

CARL DAD comes on stage from in the audience as OLIVE goes to comfort SCHWARZY. CARL DAD shoos OLIVE away.)

CARL DAD — STAY

Thanks Sweetie, I'll take it from here. Can we have a little privacy please?
Breathe, Logainne. You're okay, buck up.

(as he pours a can of coke on the floor)

Oh that's no good.

(aside to Schwarzy)

No, no, let that dry.

(pulls her aside)
The foot, we hav

What foot?

The magic foot.

Wouldn't that be

Do you want to

Yes, but I believ

And isn't havin

I don't have a r

Or a mother?

Can we have a

(to Olive)

You're lucky y

No, only my n

(As he retur Mitch, I app also an occa adding anyl

I apologize fo intolerant. Mi

(to Rona)

What did my

(CARL DAD)

(pulls her aside)

The foot, we have to disable the foot.

SCHWARZY

What foot?

CARL DAD

The magic foot.

SCHWARZY

Wouldn't that be wrong?

CARL DAD

Do you want to win?

SCHWARZY

Yes, but I believe in ethical conduct.

CARL DAD

And isn't having a magic foot an unfair *advantage*?

SCHWARZY

I don't have a magical foot.

CARL DAD

Or a mother?

RONA

Can we have all parents in their seats please. This is not a soccer game.

SCHWARZY

(to Olive)

You're lucky your parents are in India.

OLIVE

No, only my mom is. My dad's coming from work.

PANCH

(As he returns, he ad libs thanks to MITCH, only if needed for staging - e.g. "Thanks Mitch, I appreciate the tough love and the juice box." The "defense" PANCH offers is also an occasional ad lib spot. Again, if staging allows, keep things moving rather than adding anything to the moment. The briefer the better.)

I apologize for that incident. In my defense I'd like to point out that I am lactose intolerant. Miss Ostrovsky.

OLIVE

(to Rona)

What did my dad say?

end

cipal.

him.

*collapses and is
ed, or Panch
ch off in headlock]*

o comfort

y please?

