

## **AUDITION SIDES: ADULTS, RONA LISA and VICE PRINCIPAL PANCH**

### **RONA**

Hello, I'm Rona Lisa Peretti, and I'm pleased to be back for my ninth consecutive year as your host. Unfortunately, our usual word pronouncer, Superintendent Spriggs, has fallen ill, so please join me in welcoming back Vice Principal Douglas Panch from Lake Hemingway-Dos Passos Junior High. Vice Principal Panch is returning to us after a five-year hiatus – so thank you, Douglas, for stepping in on such short notice.

### **PANCH**

Thank you, Rona, and I would like to say as to the incident five years ago, I'm in a much better place now. It's amazing what a change of diet can do for a man. Thank you.

### **RONA**

Wonderful.

### **PANCH**

*(has always been a bit smitten by Rona)*

And may I add, Ms. Peretti here is not only one of Putnam County's top realtors, she's also a former spelling champion herself.

### **RONA**

*(proudly)* Third annual.

### **PANCH**

“Syzygy.”

### **RONA**

“Syzygy. When the earth aligns with the moon and the sun.”

### **PANCH**

Beautiful. And now for the Pledge of Allegiance led by our comfort counselor, *(checks writing on the palm of his hand)* Mr. Mitchell M. Mahoney.

*(Mitch Mahoney, the Comfort Counselor, enters. He looks like he would be a bouncer at a gritty bar.)*

### **RONA**

Mr. Mahoney is doing his community service work with us here today.

## **AUDITION SIDES: ADULT, MITCH/MEG MAHONEY MONOLOGUE**

### **MITCH/MEG**

You can't comfort these damn kids.

They don't know yet that the good don't always win, so there's nothing you can say to cheer them up when they lose.

I want to tell them disappointment doesn't last – but from what I've seen disappointment lasts like hell. I want to tell them words don't matter – but from what I've seen words can get you killed. I just want to beat them up a little, so they understand that pain has degrees, and this is nothing – this is nothing, you little freaks. But that would violate my parole. So I do what I can. I give them a hug and a juice box.

I'm here to give comfort.

**AUDITION SIDES: ADULTS, OLIVE'S MOM, OLIVE'S DAD, JESUS MONOLOGUE\***

**\*Actors auditioning for any of these roles may read this monologue.**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm so proud to welcome you to the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.

All of the children you see on stage are here because of their extraordinary ability and love of language—but only one of them can go on to compete in the National Spelling Bee!

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**AUDITION SIDES: ADULTS, CARL DAD and DAN DAD**

**DAN DAD**

*(sweetly, to Carl, who is practicing intensely with Schwartz before the bee)*  
Maybe it's time for a break?

**CARL DAD**

Dan, we're in the middle of a word here.

**DAN DAD**

You know she doesn't spell well when her blood sugar is low, Carl.

**CARL DAD**

We gotta build up her stamina – this bee could last three hours.

**DAN DAD**

Don't you talk to me about stamina, Carl!

**CARL DAD**

Daddy conference. Now. Get the camera ready so we can sneak some pictures for her B.M.

**DAN DAD**

Carl! Don't call her that.

**CARL DAD**

Sorry. Her "Birth Mother."

**DAN DAD**

She has a name, Carl. Peggy Jenkins. And she'd be very proud if she could see Logianne spell.

**AUDITION SIDES: SPELLER, LEAF CONEYBEAR (with PANCH)**

CAPYBARA. **PANCH**

*(distracted by a memory)* What? **LEAF**

Your word is CAPYBARA. **PANCH**

Is that a word? **LEAF**

That's a word, yes. **PANCH**

No way – what does it mean? **LEAF**

**PANCH**  
“A tailless largely aquatic South American rodent often exceeding four feet in length.”

Awesome. What else can I ask? **LEAF**

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

Oh – can you use it in a sentence? **LEAF**

**PANCH**  
Yes. “That tailless, largely aquatic four-and-a-half-foot rodent swimming next to you is a capybara.”

Wow, that didn't help at all! **LEAF**

**PANCH**  
Are you ready to spell the word, Mr. Coneybear?

**LEAF**  
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. Capybara.

**PANCH**  
That is correct.

**LEAF**  
It is? I can't believe it. It's unbelievable, I just said the first letters that came into my head!

**AUDITION SIDES: SPELLERS, OLIVE AND BARFEE**

**OLIVE**

William, right? I'm Olive.

**BARFEE**

*(Spoken obnoxiously, demonstrating his superiority complex)* 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.

**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**

*(A bit charmed)* Yeah? Thanks.

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

"Olive." "I love." That's so stupid.

**AUDITION SIDES: SPELLER, SCHWARTZY (with CARL DAD)**

**SCHWARZY**

*(Speaking with a lisp)* Cystitis. I think I studied this one with my dads.

*(remembers her dad practicing word drills)*

**CARL DAD**

*(impatiently, demanding)* Segue!

**SCHWARZY**

S-E-G-U-E

**CARL DAD**

Good. Siphon.

**SCHWARZY**

S-I-P-H-O-N

**CARL DAD**

Good. Cystitis.

**SCHWARZY**

S-

**CARL DAD**

No! Think!

**SCHWARZY**

C-

**CARL DAD**

Good.

**SCHWARZY**

I-

**CARL DAD**

No! Logainne – are you concentrating?

**SCHWARZY**

Yes. Dad, give me a minute. I know I can get this one! Please!

*(back at the bee, struggling as she returns from her sad memory)*  
Cystitis. C-Y-S-T-I-T-I-S. Cystitis.

**AUDITION SIDES: SPELLER, CHIP (with PANCH)**

**PANCH**

Charlie “Chip” Tolentino is a little league pitcher with a wicked 22-mile-an-hour screwball. Spell OMPHALOSKEPSIS.

**CHIP**

Wait a second, didn’t the guy who’s afraid of the dark just get “dinosaur”?

**PANCH**

Yes, and you got: OMPHALOSKEPSIS.

**CHIP**

But are those rated at the same level of difficulty?

**PANCH**

They’re both level one words, yes.

**CHIP**

Omphaloskepsis.

**PANCH**

Yes.

**CHIP**

Can that also be pronounced “omPHAloskepsis”?

**PANCH**

It can. It would be wrong.

**CHIP**

Omphaloskepsis. O...M...P...H...A...L-O-S-K-E-P-S-I-S. Omphaloskepsis.

**PANCH**

That is correct.

**CHIP**

*(Does a cocky victory move, like a fist pump.)*

He rallies and nails it. That’s what it means to be a champion.

**AUDITION SIDES: SPELLER, MARCY PARK (with RONA LISA)**

**RONA**

Miss Park skipped fourth and fifth grades. She's on track to become the youngest high school freshman in parochial school history. Miss Park, the word is PHYLACTERY.

**MARCY**

Phylactery. Am I pronouncing that correctly?

**RONA**

Yes.

**MARCY**

Thank you. May I have the definition, please?

**RONA**

"Either of two small square leather boxes containing religious texts traditionally worn on the left arm and head by Jewish men during morning weekday prayers."

**MARCY**

Thank you. Phylactery. P-H-Y-L-A-C-T-E-R-Y. Phylactery.

**RONA**

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.

**RONA**

And she speaks five languages!

**MARCY**

*(She's had it with these comments)* No I don't.

**RONA**

Well it also says that you won your school's handwriting competition.

**MARCY**

And does it say that I only sleep three hours a night, and I hide in the bathroom cabinet, and I'm not allowed to cry?