Dialogue: Activity Book
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On Games (An Editorial)

Our last issue was all about food, based on the premise that food is important. So maybe it would be a suitable rhetorical move to associate this little booklet with the claim that crossword puzzles are important, that maybe, after all, life is just fun and games. But that doesn't seem quite right. If the sorts of "activities" we've collected here are important, that is precisely because they are not important. They don't do anything exceptionally positive or negative. As objects of leisure or recreation, they are by all appearances pointless, harmless, foolish, self-indulgent. They're for kids.

And yet, partaking of such extravagant lack of value also feels a bit seditious. In a society in which every resource, potentiality, and connective structure is tapped for profit and where efficiency is the pinnacle of virtue, gaming may be as much a form of vandalism as recreation. Play makes (us) broken machines, or worse, pilfering ones, cutting into the surplus value. While placing this little square issue on the shelf alongside others from the past fifty years, I wonder what potential these word puzzles and paint-by-numbers have as the sort of purely aesthetic objects that other forms of art have historically claimed as their essence or goal. When I imagine you, the reader, having a blast, I notice a strange energy at work. So, if you find yourself sudokuing or coloring during a boring lecture or while on the clock, remember what might be at stake and, accordingly, be sure to have a good time.
Okay, dialogue readers! This is a mad-lib, meaning it’s a story you get to help write. The first thing you have to do is fill each of the blanks in with any word you can think of that matches the description on the right (HINT: it’s even more fun with friends!)

Then, flip to the next page for a short story, and then fill in the blanks with the words on this page by matching the numbers. Then, read the story YOU just helped write!

1. ___________ NAME OF PERSON IN ROOM
2. ___________ TYPE OF RELATIVE
3. ___________ NAME OF A SPECIFIC PLACE OR REGION
4. ___________ NOUN
5. ___________ VERB
6. ___________ RELATIVE
7. ___________ OCCUPATION
8. ___________ VERB ENDING IN “-ED”
9. ___________ MADE-UP WORD
10. ___________ FAMOUS PERSON
11. ___________ AN ANIMAL
12. ___________ VERB ENDING IN “-ING”
13. ___________ NOUN
14. ___________ NOUN
15. ___________ NOUN, PLURAL
16. ___________ VERB ENDING IN “ING”
17. ___________ NOUN
18. ___________ ADJECTIVE
Everyone knows the Greek legend of Oedipus, but less well-known is the legend of his distant but oddly similar cousin, ____1. You see, before ____1 was born, their ____2, who was the ruler of ____3 received a vision from the ____4 of Delphi that ____1 would murder their ____2 and ____5 their own ____6. So the ____2 gave ____1 to a/an ____7 to be ____8. But the ____8 just couldn’t do such a thing to a child, and instead raised it as their own.

Later, once ____1 was grown, they visited the ____9, a mythical creature with the head of ____10 and the body of ____11. After ____12 the ____13 of the ____9, ____1 learns are to kill their own ____2, and so flees the ____7 to ____3. However, once there, ____1 kills their ____2 with a ____14, becomes the ruler of all of ____3, and goes on to ____5 his own ____6, and together have several ____15 that people shudder to look upon.

However, eventually the ____6 finds out the truth, and before ____1 can stop them, they commit suicide via ____16. Overwhelmed with angst, ____1 blinds themselves with a ____17, and wanders ____3, alone and ____18, for the rest of their life.
Snake
Norm Zyksra
SIMON'S TOLENSUDOKU

dialogue Simon C. Kittok

7
First Hat
Anna M. Gretz

ACROSS:

1. It was a dark, ______ day in London.
6. Not everything is as easy as do ______ mi.
7. My haircut was so atrocious, I was about to ______ the barber.
8. I just ______ porriage, mostly.
10. What ______ the matter with the dog? Me’s asking like a drunkard.
11. After reading “Much ______ About Nothing,” I proceeded to read “Love’s Labor Lost.”
12. I seem to have forgotten to polish ______ boots.
13. After the tomatoe paste incident, it was time to get a _____ sportscoat.
15. I prefer to think of there being only one British _____.
16. My impeccable manners were _____ to me by my dear uncle.
20. Let’s go fly a kite and let it ______.
21. Though I frequently find things to be quite disgusting, I do not consider
______ a word.
22. Among other icons who bring shame to our world, I name ______ the
cLOWK.

DOWII:

1. People say I’m a ______, but I think they are sorely mistaken.
2. I must say that I am ______ for some dessert.
3. My wife is as fragile ______ our finest china.
4. Though I only had one candied almond, I has still ______ my appetite.
5. Rarely, oh so rarely, do I ever say ______.
9. Every month, I go ______ sleep five minutes earlier.
13. I want respect, and I want it ______.
14. My complicated yet stunning social network is akin to a spider’s ______.
15. ______ the post here?
16. Most things revolve around ______, but not the migration of birds.
17. ______ and behold, it’s the prime minister.
18. I recently discovered the artificiality of ______ - Cheese.
19. I ______ not believe in ghosts.
ACROSS:

1. I WANTED YOUR GI-JOE SO I ____ IT.
2. I'D RATHER BE ____.
3. I HATE MY LITTLE BROTHER BECAUSE HE'S ONLY ____ AND HE CAN'T EVEN WRESTLE YET.
4. ____ WE THERE YET?
5. MATH HOMEWORK IS SUCH A ____.
6. MOM SAYS I HAVE TO WAIT A WHOLE ____ FOR A NEW BIKE.
7. I NEVER EAT MY ____.
8. MY DAD TELLS ME TO CALL HIM ______.  
9. MY TEACHER SAYS I’M AN ______ READER FOR MY AGE.  
10. I ONCE ______ A MATCH WITH MY TEETH!  
11. I CAN PLAY ______ TO JOY ON THE KEYBOARD.  
12. WE HAVE A NINTENDO IN THE ______.  
13. YOU CAN’T HAVE THAT, IT’S ______!  
14. ______ YOU WANT TO SLEEPOVER?  

DOWN:  

41. WHEN I GO ON A ______ I HAVE TO WEAR MY SWEET HELMET.  
2. I WISH WE GOT EGG ______ EVEN WHEN IT WASN’T CHRISTMAS.  
99. I ONLY GET TO WATCH CARTOONS ON SATUR_____.  
3. WHEN WE WENT TO CHICAGO, I GOT TO RIDE THE ______!  
62. I TRY TO THROW AWAY MY VEGETABLES, BUT GRANDMA SAYS NOT TO ______ THEM.  
200. ______, SET, GO.  
300. I WAS PLAYING ON THE ROOF, SO NOW INSTEAD OF HAVING LOTS OF EAVES, WE ONLY HAVE ONE ______.  
5. WHEN I HAVE SOCCER PRACTISE, SOMETIMES WE STOP TO GET SANDWICHES AT THE ______.  
-2. ONE TIME WHEN I WAS EATING AN ORANGE, I TRIED TO EAT THE ______.  
8. I CALL IT A PIG BUT UNCLE JOE CALLS IT A ______, OR SOMETHING.  
100. JOE’S FAVORITE COLOR IS ______, BUT MINE’S NOT.  

dialogue
Story Prompt: Grand Rapids has been overrun by rabid beasts. You have been chased into an office building by the monsters, who are closing in on you. You must escape by finding your way to the roof, where a rescue helicopter is waiting to take you to safety. The up arrows are stairwells leading up a level, the down arrows are stairs leading down a level. But hurry! The beasts have just entered the building!
You make it to the roof and escape by using the helicopter!

YOU WIN!
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dialogue
DREAM ANALYSIS

Mad Lib

Cameron Latham

1. ____________ A FAMOUS CHILD STAR
2. ____________ VERB
3. ____________ NOUN
4. ____________ A FAMOUS HISTORICAL FIGURE
5. ____________ AN ANIMAL
6. ____________ VERB
7. ____________ NOUN
8. ____________ PLURAL NOUN
9. ____________ ADJECTIVE
10. ____________ NOUN
11. ____________ VERB
12. ____________ NOUN
13. ____________ TYPE OF BUILDING
14. ____________ NOUN
All right, let's go through your dream slowly, and discuss what everything means. First of all, you said for most of the dream, you were watching _______ 1. This was a representative for yourself in a younger, innocent stage. Next you said you watched _______ 1 _______ 2 a _______ 3. This is the wish-gratification of a fantasy you were never allowed to act on in real life. Then, _______ 1 was gone, and replaced by _______ 4. This indicates how you view the role of your mature self in society. Furthermore, _______ 4 was riding a _______ 5, which indicates the nature of your unconscious, primitive impulses.

Finally, _______ 4 was forced to _______ 6. This morbid part of your dream represents your acquired fear of _______ 7, as well as your to need to confront the _______ 8 that are a symbol for the _______ 9 _______ 10 in your own subconscious.

Although, I'll be the first to admit, I have no idea what it meant when you tried to _______ 11 your own _______ 12 in a _______ 13. That was too much for me, but I can recommend you to someone who's an expert developmental _______ 14 issues.
Fish  Norm Zylstra
Simon C. Kittok

dialogue
ACROSS:

II. Honky Tonk Angel: The Intimate Story of ____y Cline
IV. “My name is ____” by Orhan Pamuk
V. Fiction ____ Non Fiction?
VI. The most commonly carried book in North America is the generic ____ book.
VIII. “Cowboy ____ the Triangle Man” by Sherry Galloway Willis
IX. “The ____ of Time” by Robert Jordan
XI. “Government Ependitures in Northern Sung China” by ____ Wong
XII. In the Harry Potter series, a black, pointed hat ____ all students into their prospective houses.
XVIII. “____ Market” by Bruce Feldman
XX. “Bunny ____ (Max and Ruby)” by Rosemary Wells
XXI. In “Barnyard Banter” by Denise Fleming, every animal ____ with the rooster.

(clues continue on next page)
I. "______ Coat of Blue - A Novel of Historical Suspense" by Owen Parry
II. "______ of Blood" by Ngugi wa Thiong'o
III. "______ Long a Letter" was on the required reading list for the study abroad in Ghana, 2005
IV. "______ Phenomina in Process Metallurgy" by Julian Szekely and N.J. Thermelis
VII. "Letters to Frank D. Roosevelt: A ______ Stevens Adventure" by Steve Buchanan
IX. In "East of Eden" by John Steinbeck, Cathy changes her name to Kate when she becomes a ______.
X. Many feel a sense of depression and withdraw when a good book ______.
XIII. In the story of Hansel and Gretel, a witch desires to cook the children in her ______.
XIV. "______ the Reaper: A Novel" by Josh Bazell
XV. In the story of the Tortoise and the Hare, the tortoise ______ the race.
XVI. In the book of Genesis, both Adam and Eve ______ from the tree of forbidden fruit.
XVII. "______ You Want to Be a Wizard (digest): The First Book in the Young Wizards Series" by Diane Duane
XVIII. In the Berenstein Bears series, the mother bear’s name was Ma_______ Bear.
XIX. "______ I Lay Dying: The Corrected Text" by William Faulker
The Paper Kite Butterfly  woodcut  Mindy Lynn Capisciolto
“A southeast Asian butterfly, also known as the rice paper butterfly.”
El Cuatro Sombrero
Anna M. Gretz
ACROSS:

1. ______ Cucaracha (The Cockroach)
3. (Line)
5. (No)
8. (Hat)
11. (I Left)
12. (Bag)

DOWN:

1. Yo ______ hice. (I did it (masculine))
2. Vamos ______ parque. (Let’s go to the park)
3. ______ estas? (How are you?)
4. (You Love)
5. (No)
6. (To Go (infinitive))
7. Este _____ mi hermano. (This is my brother.)
8. (Yes)
9. (You, plural)
10. (I)
Tree, water, sky  Norm Zylstra
First Hat  page 8

Answer Key:

Dialogue
El Cuatro Sombrero page 28

dialogue
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**Thanks to all those who submitted their work, and thanks also to our readers. Enjoy!**

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*Dialogue* is Calvin College’s student-run journal of commentary and the arts, published multiple times yearly, including a music CD. *Dialogue* is a magazine dedicated to enhancing productive discourses, nurturing artistic growth at Calvin, as well as engaging culture through images, words, and ideas. We welcome submissions of articles, reviews, essays, literature, and visual art of every sort, as well as responses to *Dialogue*. Submissions, questions, feedback, and all other correspondence may be addressed to the editors at dialogue@calvin.edu