A CHALLENGE TO WILL SHORTZ

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I welcomed a special guest to Mickey’s Corner at the JCC last Wednesday night. He is Will Shortz, the crossword editor of The New York Times and the riddle maven that we love to listen to every Sunday morning on NPR.

Shortz graduated from Indiana University as the only person known to hold a college degree in enigmatology, the study of puzzles. He designed his own curriculum. Later he earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law.

In order to engage this bright creative genius, I conceived a challenge which I present to you now. It’s a two part game called My Word.

The answer to the first part will be a four or five letter word that when rearranged and confined by the word “MY” will present a different word whose definition I provide. Each ultimate answer will begin with the letter M and end with the letter Y. The word you unscramble, of course, will be in the middle, hence the name “My Word”. Let me demonstrate:

M [____________] Y = __________________________
MASH ACTOR DISORDER OF THE BODY

M [ALDA ] Y = __________________________
DISORDER OF THE BODY

M ALAD Y - MALADY

It’s really not that difficult and hopefully it will be fun. Please give it a go.

1. M [____________________] Y = __________________________
DOG’S NAME MAKE MINOR CHANGES
2. \( M [ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ] \ Y = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \)  
   DRY RIVER BED \hspace{3cm} CHICAGO AIRPORT  

3. \( M [ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ] \ Y = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \)  
   PICKLE VARIETY \hspace{3cm} NOT SEVERELY  

4. \( M [ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ] \ Y = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \)  
   STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT \hspace{3cm} NAVAL REVOLT  

5. \( M [ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ] \ Y = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \)  
   DEPOSIT OF ORE \hspace{3cm} TUNE  

6. \( M [ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ] \ Y = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \)  
   DORIAN GRAY CREATOR \hspace{3cm} AFFECTED BY WHITISH FUNGUS  

7. \( M [ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ] \ Y = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \)  
   CIRCUS SEA CREATURE \hspace{3cm} CONTEMPTIBLY SMALL  

8. \( M [ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ] \ Y = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \)  
   GO TO SEA \hspace{3cm} LOSE TEMPORARILY  

9. \( M [ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ] \ Y = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \)  
   EDITOR’S STRIKE \hspace{3cm} MIXTURE  

10. \( M [ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ] \ Y = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \)  
    MATCH PLAY? \hspace{3cm} STRUCTURE BUILT OF BRICK OR STONE  

11. \( M [ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ] \ Y = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \)  
    CASINO GAME \hspace{3cm} JUNGLE ANIMAL