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

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2. M [_____________] Y = _______________
   DRY RIVER BED                      CHICAGO AIRPORT

3. M [_____________] Y = _______________
   PICKLE VARIETY                    NOT SEVERELY

4. M [_____________] Y = _______________
   STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT           NAVAL REVOLT

5. M [_____________] Y = _______________
   DEPOSIT OF ORE                    TUNE

6. M [_____________] Y = _______________
   DORIAN GRAY CREATOR               AFFECTED BY WHITISH FUNGUS

7. M [_____________] Y = _______________
   CIRCUS SEA CREATURE               CONTEMPTIBLY SMALL

8. M [_____________] Y = _______________
   GO TO SEA                        LOSE TEMPORARILY

9. M [_____________] Y = _______________
   EDITOR’S STRIKE                   MIXTURE

10. M [_____________] Y = _______________
    MATCH PLAY?                      STRUCTURE BUILT OF BRICK OR STONE

11. M [_____________] Y = _______________
    CASINO GAME                      JUNGLE ANIMAL