MORE CHARADES AND MONDEGREENS

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A. Here is an assortment of my own charades.
1. A coffee vase can be explicit or implicit:
   overt-urn or tacit-urn.
2. Neckwear can be formal or informal:
   proper-ties or casual-ties.
   as well as unusual or understated:
   novel-ties or subtle-ties.
3. Two partitions of a word in the Star Spangled Banner:
   “Or the ramp arts we watched” (as we entered the expressway);
   “Or the ram parts we watched” (at the butcher shop).
4. Other “ramp” words with two partitions:
   rampages: ramp ages or ram pages;
   rampant: ramp ant or ram pant;
   rampion: ramp ion or ram pion.
5. Those mischievous imps start all sorts of things.
   Here are a few: imp-act, imp-ale, imp-art, imp-asses, imp-ending, imp-licit,
6. There was unusual interest in a splendid nocturnal bird, when millions watched
   the superb owl on TV.
7. Leaving iron tools out in the fog may lead to mist-rust.
8. What did Poe try? Did Coleridge get his Words worth?

B. Children who learn to recite patriotic songs, religious hymns, etc., that they haven’t
   ever read create remarkable mondegreens. Here are some dandies.
1. The country called “Tizathee” (as in “My country, Tizathee”) was the “Land
   where the Pilgrims pried” (they were so nosy!).
2. A bright beacon at sea was the “Donzerly Light” (as in “O say can you see by the
   Donzerly Light”).
3. Children in northwest Pennsylvania beseeched a deity named “Harold” (as in
   “Our father which art in heaven, Harold be thy name”) as follows: “And lead us
   not into Penn Station, but deliver us from Meadville.”
4. Finally, from the 23rd Psalm, they recited “Surely good Mrs. Murphy will follow
   me all the days of my life.”