KICKSHAWS

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Readers are encouraged to send their favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws Editor. All answers appear in the Answers and Solutions at the end of the issue. Guest editors will appear occasionally.

WORDPLAY ON THE ROAD

Last June my son Danny and I visited Richard and Simone Lederer in Concord NH for a week. Ross and Faith Eckler made the trek from Morristown NJ for two days. While the weather was on-again-off-again, the wordplay was always on.

Since we were on vacation, we went to some vacation places, but with people like the Ecklers and the Lederers, even an innocent visit to a SHAKER village is full of puns (SHAKE 'ER) and anagrams (ASK HER). A tasty barbecue dinner likewise becomes the occasion for discussions on enigmas and other word puzzles. During rides from one place to another, from one bookstore to another, the conversation inevitably turned to wordplay, which sometimes turned to the question "Did we turn the right way?"

On the final full day, Rich, Danny and I took a drive to the White Mountains. Danny sat in the back seat and alternated between looking at the scenery and reading Falling Up, Shel Silverstein's new collection of poems. Rich and I were having ongoing discussions on wordplay, but Danny, at age seven, wasn't familiar with most of the topics. Still he wanted to join in on the conversation. To do so, he'd wait for a pause in our words and say "Here's a really good poem. You want to hear it?" And then he'd read the poem and another one or two for an encore.

At one point, the conversation turned to the topic of anagrams of the name DANIEL. I said that I'd found DENIAL, and Rich added NAILED. We tried finding others, and I wrote them down on a bag from the last fast-food restaurant we'd toured. Surprisingly, many other anagrams fit together to form a poem about Daniel Rostenkowski, the scandal-racked Congressman who quit his job a few months ago. In fact, it almost sounds like a normal newspaper caption, and it serves as a souvenir of wordplay that just happened to happen one fine day on the road through the mountains of New Hampshire:

AN IDLE LEAD-IN AD LINE: DANIEL, NAILED IN DEAL (i.e., LAND IN DALE), LED IN A DENIAL AND LIE

CANDIDATE POTENTIAL

Now the time has come to put the candidates to work. Make your choice early, and vote for the Democratic nominee.

Not nill: CANDIDATE POTENTIAL

TAPT: FAT

Of all the people southwest into the shadow of a red flag, three makes a correct answer. X IN NIXON-?

Now rely—

To last, CANDIDATE POTENTIAL

DOLE SQUARES

"Is it true that..." Monte Zergen discussed in shaws to help hit song I FEEL"?

1. (DOLE)
2. DOLE contains a non-trivial square of 4.
3. ROBERT
4. Astrologist for his wife Elizabeth
5. Applying the value of 81, it is obvious that Bush's could
CANDIDATE PALINDROMES

Now the time has come to exercise our American right to vote and to put the candidates' names into palindromes. Here are four to help you make your election-day choice on November 8. The Dole one is a Democratic mock of his convention pledge to be a bridge to the past:

Not nil: CLINTON
Rise? No, GORE hero gone, Sir
Snaps foe "DOLE, be lode of spans!"
Had I KEMP? Me, kid? Ah!

TAFT: FAT

Of all the American presidents, William Howard Taft's last name fits into the shortest, most appropriate palindrome--TAFT, FAT—which calls attention to his legendary portliness. HARRISON is the only name that makes a complete reversal, NO, SIRRAH. NIXON fits into a palindrome--NO X IN NIXON—that's made of letters that look the same upside down. (But it is obviously untrue.) Here are a few more chief-executive palindromes:

Bush's could have been uttered by Dan Quayle.

God! ADAMS is mad—a dog
No? Sir? Damn MADISON!
0, note: Vote! Or no MONROE to veto. No!
Raw? Tap Marty VAN BUREN. One rub: Navy tramp at war
Now rely—TYLER won
To last, CARTER retracts a lot [by Edward Scher and others]
I'm a BUSH sub, am I?

DOLE SQUARED

"Is it true that Dole is too old and too 'square' to be President?" Monte Zerger asks. "I turned to the letter-number code (A=1, B=2, etc.) discussed in the 'Self-Referential Math' section of the May 1996 Kickshaws to help me find answers. As Mary Chapin-Carpenter sang in her hit song I Feel Lucky, 'The stars may lie but the numbers never do'."

1. (DOLE) = (OLDE)
2. DOLE contains four letters and begins with the 4th one, while KEMP also contains four letters and ends with the 16th one. Four is the first non-trivial square number, and a square has four sides. Sixteen is the square of 4. Dole has joked publicly that DOLE and KEMP are two four-letter words you can and should use.
3. ROBERT JOSEPH DOLE contains sixteen letters.
4. Astrologically, Dole is a Cancer, the 4th sign of the Zodiac. (So is his wife Elizabeth and his running mate, Kemp.)
5. Applying the letter-number code to DOLE, we obtain 36, a square. Adding to that the value of KEMP (45), we obtain the presidential ticket value of 81, another square.
6. ELEPHANT, the symbol of the GOP (Grand OLD Party), also has a letter-number value of 81. Curiously, the elephant is a symbol of longevity in the countries it inhabits.

OFFICIAL STATE PALINDROMES

Since the states have their official birds and flowers, they also deserve to have official palindromes. Surprisingly, New York is the only state that’s been granted that privilege: NOT NEW YORK, ROY WENT ON (by the immortal Leigh Mercer). Here are 24 more, completing half the job. Some use names and abbreviations, but none uses obsolete or made-up words. (ROLF is in Webster’s 10th, NIMOY is familiar to Star Trekkers, SENNETT is an old-time film director, and DAR is the Daughters of the American Revolution, a patriotic organization.) I feel a special connection with the 16th palindrome on the list. The next step is to petition the states to include the palindromes on their flags. Can you improve on these or provide examples for the missing states?

To id, it’s ALABAMA. Mab, a last idiot
Had ALASKA, etc., teak salad—ah!
We let ARIZONA fan Oz, irate Lew
Back COLORADO DAR? O, lock cab
No DELAWARE raw ale, Don
One poem, an aside: FLORIDA, had I rolled? Is a name open? O!
HAWAII—aw! ah!
He yawned “Lost IDAHO had its olden way, eh?”
The USS ILLINOIS? Simple help mission! I’ll issue it
To lax INDIANA I’d nix a lot
’Tis IOWA law! (O, is it?)
I made KANSAS, as naked am I
I do get arisen—I am MAINE’s irate god, I!
No, help MISSISSIPPI’s sis. Simple, hon
Ma, I won Sara by no beer! O, MONTANA ran at no more ebony bar
as now I am
Do go to NEVADA, Dave—no, to God
Not a bag, OHIO! I hog a baton
Tap OKLAHOMA? Sam! O, Hal! KO Pat
Max, is tacit OREGON nog erotic at six A.M.?
Rat sees Sennett, TENNESSEE star
No TEXAS sax, Eton
No! In UTAH’s hat, union!
’Tis I, fine VERMONT. No, Mr., even if I sit
No! WYOMING a bag Nimoy won?

JUNIOR CITIES AND ILLEGITIMATE CITIES

Junior Cities, discussed in a previous Kickshaw, are those named after their states (or countries) by placing the state name followed by City, such as Iowa City, Iowa, New York City, New York, and Kuwait City, Kuwait. At least one city is named after another state: Michigan City, Indiana. Are there any others?
COMPARATIVE SUPERLATIVE

Most adjectives have one comparative and superlative form—either the MORE-MOST form or the ER-EST form. Some have their own customized form, like GOOD-BETTER-BEST. Can you name one common three-letter adjective that has two comparative and superlative forms of the ER-EST variety? It's a good one, better than the best.

PSEUDONYM QUIZ

Some children's authors produce books under different names. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson published his sermons and mathematical works under his given name, and his literary works under his much more famous pseudonym, Lewis Carroll. Here are two other authors that did the same thing, Edward Lear and Theodore Seuss Geisel. Can you figure out which one of the alternative names did not appear on their books: LEAR Edward Lear, Derry Down Derry, Ed Lear; GEISEL Ted Geisel, Theo LeSeig, Dr. Seuss, Rosetta Stone?

IF A CANNER CAN CAN CANS

In the May Word Ways, the article "A Soup Can Can Can-Can; Can You?" discussed the results of a National Public Radio contest that challenged listeners to write a sentence using the same word four or more times. The winner strung out the word ROSE four times. Other people contributed longer repetitions, but they didn't win. Some contest-ants cheated by using a word like EVER over and over, as in "Don't you ever, ever, ever ... do that".

One cheater's repetition recently made national news. In a wire service article, James Kallstrom, heading the FBI investigation of the Flight 800 crash, refuted rumors that the plane was downed by friendly fire. His sentence: "I've said several times that friendly fire is highly, highly, highly, highly, unlikely."

REPEATED FOUR-LETTER RECURSIVES

Harry Partridge has some new additions to Peter Newby's challenge to come up with palindromes having three or more of the same letter in a row. The term Lama Glama, Harry writes "is, of course, the generic & specific name of the llama according to my friend Kipholorfa Gespera." Here are his four-square dromes:

They Honk 'Ooga': A goose zoo oozes 'Ooga'
Red, Don't Eat What Eels Eat or Don't Let Eels Eat You:
Red, do flee eel fodder
Colloquy Between Two Camelids:
No. 1 says, accusatorially, 'Amalgamal lama glama'
No. 2 replies, justificatorily, 'I am all llama, I'
Leonard Gor each of which is? Can you compute:

SIX + SEVEN
SIX + EIGHT
TEN + EIGHT
TEN + SIX + NINE + THIRTEEN + THREE + SEVEN

POLYGONAL BALLOWS

Susan Thorpe shaws, August polygons were TETRAGON (101) gone and now TETRAHEDRON denoted EACH HAS MANY DIHEDRON (77)
ONE TRIHEDRON TETRAHEDRON PENTAHEDRON THE HEXAHEDRON THE HEPTAHEDRON OCTAHEDRON THE ENNAHEDRON THE DECAHEDRON THE HENDECAHEDRON THE DODECAHEDRON

Names exist for RAHEDRON (183)

THE CREATURES

Susan has found, which also belong to the alphabetical qualities: as the shortest I,J,K,L,M,N and trilobite, which there any other order, or is it un

PALINDROMEDARY

I'M A WORD ROW, AM I?
NUMERICAL PUZZLE

Leonard Gordon has composed the following numerical expressions, each of which has the same special feature. Can you figure out what it is? Can you come up with other examples?

SIX + SEVEN = THIRTEEN
SIX + EIGHT = FOURTEEN
TEN + EIGHT = EIGHTEEN
TEN + EIGHT = NINE + NINE
TEN + SIX + ONE = EIGHT + NINE
NINE + THIRTY-THREE = TWENTY + TWENTY-TWO
THIRTEEN + TWENTY-TWO = SEVENTEEN + EIGHTEEN
THREE + SEVEN + TWELVE = THIRTEEN + ONE + EIGHT

POLYGONAL BALANCE: THE SEQUEL

Susan Thorpe writes "This is a sequel to 'Polygonal Balance' (Kickshaw, August 1996), in which, assigning A=1, B=2, etc., 3- to 12-sided polygons were each given a numerically-balanced description such as A TETRAGON (101) ... FOUR-SIDED (101). But the sides and -GONS have gone and now it is the turn of the -HEDRONS. In combined form, HEDRON denotes the number of faces in a geometrical object. Thus, a TETRAHEDRON has four faces. So we can say of the POLYHEDRON (132) ...
EACH HAS MANY FACES (132) and ...

DIHEDRON (77) ... TWO-FACED (77)
ONE TRIHEDRON (145) ... THREE FACES OBJECT (145)
TETRAHEDRON (128) ... FOUR-FACED SHAPE (128)
PENTAHEDRON (120) ... FIVE-FACETED ONE (120)
THE HEXAHEDRON (135) ... SIX-FACES SHAPE (135)
THE HEPTAHEDRON (147) ... HAS SEVEN FACETS (147)
OCTAHEDRON (103) ... EIGHT FACETS (103)
THE ENNAHEXAHEDRON (136) ... WITH NINE FACES (136)
THE DECABETAHEDRON (110) ... A TEN-FACED OBJECT (110)
THE HEDECAHEDRON (137) ... ELEVEN-FACED OBJECT (137)
THE DODECAHEDRONS (148) = EACH TWELVE-FACETED (148)

Names exist for some of the larger -HEDRONS, for example ICOSITETRAHEDRON (183) ... A TWENTY-FOUR FACE (183)."

THE CREATURES OF LOGOLOGY

Susan has found the names of two creatures in Nomenclator Zoologicus which also belong in Nomenclator Logologicus. She describes their alphabetical qualities: "The 11-letter KILLIMANJARO has appeared in Word Ways as the shortest word containing the alphabetically-consecutive letters I,J,K,L,M,N and O. But these 7 letters also appear in KOLJUMBINA, a trilobite, which has only 10 letters. XYYZORS is a nematode worm. Are there any other words that begin with the letters XYZ- in alphabetical order, or is it unique?"
KANGAROO SPORTS CHALLENGE

Following up "Of Kangaroos and Joeys" in the May 1996 Word Ways, Richard Lederer poses this challenge. Name three professional sports teams from the major leagues of football, baseball, basketball and hockey that are kangaroo words each concealing a second professional team as a joey. Use the team name, not the city—COWBOYS, for example. Remember that the letters in the joey cannot be solid: ART in cARToon is not valid, but CAN in ContAiNER is.

FROM BABY BOOM TO BABY BUST

On a local TV station, the news anchor informed the world of an obvious statistic. His exact words: "There were fewer babies born in Iowa last year than there were in the past 100 years."

THE PALINDROMIC BATTLE OF THE SEXES

In this poem each line is a palindrome revolving around the same word. It's about the age-old conflict known as the RAW SEXES' WAR:

Spot sexes' tops  Nab sexes' ban  Span sexes naps  Sore sexes' Eros
Pat sexes' tap    Loot sexes' tool  Top sexes' pot    Straw sexes' wart
Swap sexes' paws  Wed sexes' dew  Drab sexes' bard  Doom sexes' mood
Part sexes' trap  Loop sexes' pool  Tops sexes' spot  Trap sexes' part

Snap sexes' pans  Edit sexes' tide  Snug sexes' guns  Emit sexes' time
Tip sexes' pit    Mad sexes' dam    Tab sexes' bat    Rats! Sexes star
Stop sexes' pots  Snip sexes' pins  Regal sexes' lager  Now sexes won
'Til sexes hit  Mar sexes' ram  Taps sexes' spat  Raw sexes' war

DYLSEXIA ... ER, DYSLEXIA

Monte Zerger was inspired by Richard Lederer's DYSLEXIA = DAILY SEX anagram in the last Kickshaws—so inspired, in fact, that "an odd little vignette emerged from somewhere in the shadows of my consciousness." In it, his own anagrams and those of others (plus one charade) tell a sad tale indeed:

It starts innocently enough—a single flower: ROSE = EROS
Then ... Oh, the passion! MATES = STEAM; BELOVED = BED LOVE
And although we're blinded to our situation, it's sure fun!

DAILY SEX = DYSLEXIA

Until MARRIAGE = A GRIM ERA; MOTHER-IN-LAW = WOMAN "HITLER"
We seek help; but: THERAPIST = THE RAPIST
Even wonder about our cat's life: NEUTER = RETUNE
Before conclude "There must be a better way" DIVORCES = DISCOVER
And that perhaps the best fun still lies ahead, so what does it matter? FUNERAL = REAL FUN

THE YEARLY QUANTITIES

In the last logological argument there is one basic alphabetically arranged alphabet, they now appear, are two answers that have 30 or 31 days.

KEY	CO
   F  white
  F#  blue
   G  white
  G#  blue
   A  white
  A#  blue
   B  white
  C  white
  C#  blue
   D  white
  D#  blue
    E  white

GREETINGS

Did you ever visit Vincent Wright Greetings Co. before? The front of their calendar:
Inside, the caption:

FLEX ELF

Peter Newby is the palindromist's master jeweler, more serious machines. Firearms has A1, does your burea "hat? [Editor's note]
THE YEARLY QUESTION

In the last Word Ways, Monte's article "Calendar Curiosa" gave logological arguments for March beginning the new year. However, there is one basic argument in favor of April 8: it's the first day alphabetically. However, if you use the -th variation, then April 18th is the first. This raises another question: if the days of the year are arranged alphabetically, how many (if any) appear in the same order as they now appear in the January 1 to December 31 arrangement? There are two answers, one for the -th version and one for the non-th version. Are there any dates that appear in the same position in all three orderings?

CALENDAR PIANISSIMO

Monte came up with an incredibly appropriate relationship between time and music: "One can use a piano to remember whether a month as 30 or 31 days. Play an F scale and the alternation of white and black keys will exactly correspond to the months that have 31 days and those that have 30 or fewer days, respectively."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY</th>
<th>COLOR</th>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>DAYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F#</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>28 (or 29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G#</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A#</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C#</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D#</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GREEEEEEETING CARD

Did you ever wonder what happened to all those e's that Ernest Vincent Wright didn't use in his e-less novel, Gadsby? The American Greetings Co. bought them up and used them in a recent greeting card. The front of the card is completely covered with row after row of e's. Inside, the caption says "Thought you'd like to get some e-mail!"

FLEX ELF

Peter Newby sends this news from New Bybwen: "The Flex Elf (a palindromist's muse) keeps whispering into my ear, distracting me from more serious matters. I know that your bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms has ATF on the caps of its law enforcement division, but what does your bureau of Salami, Horses, Iowans, and Turnips have on its hat? [Editor's note: it's actually called the bureau of Turnips, Horses,
Iowans, and Salami, and everyone in Iowa knows THIS. Why couldn't they have called themselves Firearms, Alcohol, and Tobacco? Or even Alcohol, Firearms, and Tobacco? And who decided against a bureau of Firearms, Alcohol, Rubber, and Tobacco? [Editor's note: the bureau of Guns, Alcohol, and Styrofoam lobbied against it.]

The Flex Elf informs me that EN MASS is an acceptable variation on EN MASSE, at least as far as English is concerned. He mentioned this in connection with a possible new war crimes trial in England for a now 80-year-old Eastern European who, so the Flex considers, might well use the standard defence: S.S. AMNESIA IS EN MASS.

BULLETINS FROM NEW BYBWN

Here are two short anecdotes that Peter tells about New Bybwen's finest. The characters' names haven't been changed to protect the palindromic:

Era Bare, New Bybwen's nudist colony, was the setting for Red Dalby Bladder's lovefest with the teledu (stinking badger of Java and Sumatra) and naturally the press was in full attendance. The female stinking badger was chained to a tree at one end of the playing field, and Dalby was in full rampant posture at the other end. As soon as Dalby judged the moment fruitful, he yelled at the club secretary WO, NUDE, LET TELEDU ... NOW!

Tessa Basset, the very pretty secretary of the New Bybwen branch of the Anglo-Russian Society, has discovered that KSAR IS an old spelling of tsar, czar, or what-have-you, and that Peter the Great once visited the famous palindromic borough. Apparently, Peter was a victim of sleeping sickness and was frequently observed to rask (yawn) so much that he used yawning as a synonym for modes of speech such as in his celebrated palindromic KSAR: 'IS SELF LESS SELFLESS? I RASK.

THE PROVERBIAL PUN

Peter writes "The indefatigable Pewtery has been researching Tudor proverbs during the course of which he discovered that BROTHE (meaning 'impetuous, violent, passionate, wrathful') has also functioned as a noun with that same meaning, and that POYLE is an old form of 'pulley'. Apparently Henry VIII, for reasons of economy, used his catering staff as part-time torturers but ordered the immediate execution of any caterer who tried the royal patience by subjecting his impetuous, violent, passionate or wrathful minions to the rack. His Majesty's famous proclamation read: TOMB ANY COOKS POYLE YE BROTHE."

ANAMINIGRAM

Peter Newby has come up with a wordsmith's riddle, and it's a political piece at that:

Q: What's the location of FERGIE's spelling error?
A: You get FERGIE if you take up the challenge of unusual words:

OPSINATHIC

Jay Ames is trying to break into this leprous group. It seems no leprosy is regarded as unfamiliar to him and his world.

MONOVOWELIC MUSK

Awhile back Jay took up the challenge of unusual words and earned the monovowel prize for the Tongue's naughty, but Rosy spelling error. Numerous monovowels, like the surprising number of Ys in the Bible for the Tongue.

CLUSTERINGS

Jay has also come up with an unfamiliar collection of words. It seems Y is regarded in this group. It seems Jay can pronounce in this list which Y I just made up.

RAMCHAND
Q: What's the difference between FERGIE and an anagram?
A: You get full value from an anagram but the most you get from FERGIE is GRIEF!

OPSIMATHIC

Jay Ames is an aficionado of weird words. In fact, they inspire him to take up the challenge to use them in poems. The following packs several unusual words into just eight lines:

No liripoop, no omadhaun,
no know-it-all in spades,
this leprechaunic opsimath
flits feally through the shades.

Adaxographic isn't moi
(I'm much more the reverse)
and handed any wild, weird word
break into terse verse verse.

MONOVOWELIC NAMES

Awhile back I listed SCHWICKRSTH as the longest name with only one vowel, but Ross and others have pointed out that it's probably a spelling error. In searching the Toronto telephone book, Jay discovered numerous monovowelic names of five to eight letters, which were printed in a previous Kickshaws. Jay also wrote that he "did unearth a surprising number of monovowelic surnames in all parts of Ma Bell's Bible for the Toronto edition". Here's a sample of the monovowelics in A:

Andie ABO, Steve AGH, Ralph ALM, G. ALT, Chriss ANN, Bernie APPS, D. ARCH, Dave ARN, John Wm. ARPS, Philo ART, Natan ARY, Aud ASHBY, Doug ASP, Chris ATTSZ, Jo Anne ACS, Soo Song AHN, Byron ALP, Victor ANG, L. APS, Peter ARNDS, Lydia ARTS, C. ASCH, Samantha ASHRY, Paul AST, S. AVDYC, D.D. AGG, Bettie ALL, Abdul ALY, Elson Harcourt ALS, Yansum ANH, J.B. APP, P. ARM, Bonnie ARNDT, B. ARTZ, Addie ASH, George ASRY, Alice ATT, M. AY, Joe AZMY

CLUSTERINGS

Jay has also found some names that he calls clusterings, in which unfamiliar collections of letters appear. Below is a small but impressive group. It seems to me that the third name ranks as the most difficult to pronounce in the world except for the 15-letter QQXMWQHLJNIWBDRB, which I just made up.

RAMCHANDARAN, ZYRDZDGRAUDIS, DEMSZCZYSZCZYB

The second has an eight-consonant group, and the third only one vowel if Y is regarded as a consonant.
DOUBLE TROUBLE

Speaking of pronunciation, the Guinness Book of World Records used to list THE SIXTH SICK SHEIK'S SIXTH SHEEP'S SICK as the hardest to pronounce, but after a few practice tries it's easy. For a more convoluted challenge, try saying both of these twisters, one after the other, five times rapidly without making a mistake: CHICKS' CHIC CLIQUE CLIPS CHIP'S CLIFFS; SLEEK SHEETS SQUEEZE SLEEP'S STEEP SCREECH.

GISH AND GOOCH

Nyr Indictor writes "In some Kickshaws article, you mentioned multiple readings of GHOTI (pronounced 'fish'). Since any of these letters may be silent, the number of readings is quite high. I believe the following conversation between two people named Gish and Gooch can be rewritten, substituting GHOTI for each syllable.

GISH Hi, Gooch.
GOOCH Hi, Gish, Got fish?
GISH Got fish?! I poach fish! Got a hot pot?
GOOCH Oh, I got a hot pot.
GISH A fit! Gooch got a hot pot, I got fish.
GOOCH Pooh! A goat fish. Pity. Pitch it.
GISH Aw... Oh, I got a goat. Go, Gooch, go poach goat.
GOOCH I go.

WINTERIZED POETRY

'Tis the season to buy presents, wear warmer clothes, drink hotter coffee, and write wintry poetry by the fireplace. Here's a frosty parody of a famous Frost poem, STOPPED BY HOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING:

Whose hoods these are I think I know. 
His hide-out's in the village, though. 
He will not see me stopping here 
To watch his hoods remove my dough.

My little horse must think it queer 
To stop for men with masks so near, 
Two burly hoods, who want to take 
My money at this time of year.

He kicks the robbers till they break 
The ice upon the frozen lake. 
The only other sound's the steep 
And chilly splash their bodies make.

The hoods are ugly, wet, and deep, 
But I have money still to keep, 
And miles to go before they sleep, 
And miles to go before they sleep.