FINDING THE ANSWERS WITHIN

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Last May in my weekly puzzle segment on NPR’s “Weekend Edition Sunday” I posed a creative challenge to listeners: Write a clue or definition for a word of five or more letters in which the clue actually conceals the word inside it. For example, “Some teenagers’ language” both describes and conceals SLANG. Entries were judged on accuracy of the cluing, specificity, naturalness of syntax, and overall elegance.

Hundreds of entries poured in. Here are the winners, with the names of the listeners who submitted them.

First Place:
• In cold weather most attempt to keep this set low -- Mike Strong, Mechanicsburg, PA

Runners-Up:
• One who does not believe that he is the work of a Creator – also by Mike Strong
• Its members are chosen at elections every six years -- Steve Stein, Highland Park, NJ
• The electric light bulb he developed is only one of his many inventions -- Nick Marritz, Washington, DC
• No doubt about it, an iceberg sank her -- Dan Axtell, Westminster, VT
• A place to hear the fire crackle -- William Pahle, Chicago, IL
• Season of snow intermixed with ice -- Jonathan Black, Brockport, NY
• Not Mercury, but the other messenger of the gods -- William Sittig, Washington, DC
• She said “love, honor, and obey” once to Jay-Z -- John Byrne, Dorchester, MA
• On a wedding band I am on display -- Holly Ashworth, Oak Park, IL
• Worth one’s trust -- Steve Worona, Montpelier, VT
• Internet wit, tersely -- Andy Sfeir, Portland, OR
• As puzzle fans, we’re always seeking this -- Tom Shieber, Cooperstown, NY

Honorable Mention:
• Those who use stones shouldn’t live in glass ones -- Eric Buetens, Stuart, FL
• When Siskel was there with Ebert, he ate Raisinet -- Peter Collins, Ann Arbor, MI
• You might need these if you are hopeless on skis -- Jennie Callas, Lake Bluff, IL
• Element of an improper jury trial -- Pat Felice, Patchogue, NY
• This can is terrific for storing tea -- Helen Davis, Valencia, CA

• You wouldn't hear this where synods convene -- Paul Birnbaum, Bronx, NY

• Someone who appreciates the technical brilliance of art -- Alison Chapman, Cambridge, MA

• Like N.F.L. linemen or Mouseketeer ears -- Tom Pepper, Edina, MN