

# ANAGRAM CALENDAR—ARRANGED ALMANAC

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## The Calendar

*Anagram Calendar—Arranged Almanac* anagrams the names of the 366 dates, the 12 months, and the 7 weekdays.” Each date’s anagram is printed in its own calendar square (January First = “Fans, I jury art),” and the weekday anagrams are printed across the top of the grid (Sunday = “Say Dun”). In non-leap years, the square for February 29<sup>th</sup> should be omitted. The 2010 calendar year starts on a Friday. Any other year can be represented by shifting the anagrams to their appropriate squares.

I used the Internet Anagram Server to generate them, and I made my final selections from the lists that resulted. In the most surprising twist of all, when I typed “Anagram Calendar” into the search box and clicked the button, up popped 1,000 of 18,147 anagrams, the first of which was “Arranged Almanac,” which became the second half of the title. Other anagrams on the list suggested that the calendar was “A Grander Almanac,” even a “Dang Rare Almanac” in a “Grand Almanac Era.”

## Minimal Poetry

Along with being a series of anagrams, the “Anagram Calendar” is a poem. Instead of appearing in lines and stanzas, the words appear in squares and grids. Individually, the text in each square can be considered a minimal poem. In a traditional collection of minimal poems, each would appear in the middle of its own page.

In the 1960s Aram Saroyan popularized minimal poetry, and his poem “light” won a controversial \$600 award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Senator Strom Thurmond referring to it in Congress urged fellow congresspersons to cut funding to the NEA. One of Saroyan’s books, a minimal novel, was read in its entirety on the evening news. The mimeographed magazine 0-9, edited by Vito Hannibal Acconci in the late 1960s, was one of the first to publish minimal poetry.

In 1972, for my UI Workshop thesis, I submitted a collection of 9 minimal poems totaling 81 words. It is the shortest thesis in Workshop history. In 1973, the Workshop made it a rule that theses had to be at least 35 pages long. In that same year, my thesis was stolen from the open shelves of the UI Main Library. Al Buck published it as *Poems 1971* in a fine letterpress edition of 60 copies. When I teach poetry to young students, I tell them that I’ll try reading the entire book, including title, dedication, poems, and colophon, in less than half a minute. My record so far is 26 seconds.

In the early seventies, experimental poet Joyce Holland issued 14 issues of *Matchbook magazine of 1-word poetry*. The one-inch square mimeographed pages were stapled on the insides of matchbooks donated by local business. A number of well-known authors,

including Allen Ginsberg (with “apocatastasis”) appeared in the magazine. Ginsberg sent a message saying that he did not approve of using matchbooks with matches in them because they are bad for the environment. Holland also edited *Alphabet Anthology: one-letter poetry*, a long, thin book of 104 one-letter poems from an equal number of contributors in the 1970s. Each was requested to choose a letter of the alphabet for the anthology. The index tallied up the one-letter poems. The most popular was “o” with 12 authors. The least popular was “c” with no authors.

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In 2006, the complete set of the magazine was published in electronic form as *Matchbook Magazine Anthology*, available in electronic format for \$3.00. (Order from DM at drabc26@aol.com). The introduction tells more about this literary magazine, the smallest ever published. The 16-page anthology features an issue-by-issue presentation of the one-word poems and their authors. Unfortunately, no copies of the original *Matchbook Magazine* are currently available. The complete set of *Matchbook Magazine* and a copy of *Alphabet Anthology* can be viewed at the UI Special Collections Department in their Joyce Holland Archives.

Here are 12 examples of minimal poems from the calendar, one for each month.

Jade crayon sun.	Brr! Fate is fury	Rent them a witch.	Hey, pen twilight art!	Mirthday!	Hen, untie jennet.
Flirt. It’s thy jury.	Ugly tax suits.	Be her prettiest mirth.	Boo! Hence grit teeth,	No bee met thigh.	The crib mid the tree

### Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Jeff Grant for coming up with anagrams for June and July and for improving on four others. Here are his anagrams with commentary:

January = A jay run (pun on “jaywalk”?)

April = Pilar (pertaining to hair; in OSPD 4<sup>th</sup> Ed., Webster’s 3rd, and Random House Dictionary 2nd)

June = Jenu (a wild and cannibalistic hairy giant in Mi’kmaq folklore; in Wikipedia)

July = Juyl (a variant of “Juil,” and old word for “July”; in Middle English Dictionary quotations, MED quotes)

August = Tug U.S.A. (summer winds?)

October = Cot robe (originally I had “Robe cot”)

2010

## JANUARY – A JAY RUN

2010

Say Dun	Dynamo	Sea Duty	Seedy Dawn	Hay Turds	A Dry If	A Dust Ray
					1 Fairy just ran.	2 Jade crayon sun.
3 Art had injury.	4 Author, fan jury.	5 Ah, jaunty riff.	6 Uh, jinx a satyr.	7 Rajahs envy tune.	8 Then a hairy jug	9 hurt any ninja.
10 The jury, an ant.	11 “Revalue hat, Jenny.	12 Why fan ultra jet?”	13 Jenny hurt the tiara.	14 A fear: “Enjoy untruth.”	15 “Affair, eh, Jenny? Tut!”	16 Hyenas utter jinx.
17 “A trite age, huh, Jenny?”	18 Neath here, a tiny jug.	19 The antennae injure.	20 Jar us, Nonce Day!	21 Try runny fajita stew.	22 A scanty joy underwent	23 a wry, tinny, jade truth.
24 A father won nutty jury.	25 Her jaunty twin, Taffy,	26 jinxes naughty thruway.	27 A thaw’s ever a nutty Jenny,	28 a naughty jetty whiner.	29 “Junta tyranny, eh, twin?”	30 Tiara hit jury then.
31 Art’s a thrifty injury.						

2010

## FEBRUARY – BARE FURY

2010

Say Dun	Dynamo	Sea Duty	Seedy Dawn	Hay Turds	A Dry If	A Dust Ray
	1 Brr! Fate is fury.	2 Brr! Unsafe decoy.	3 Brr! Uh, diary fit.	4 Brr! You, I huff art.	5 Brr! Fay hut fife.	6 Brr! If a sexy hut...
7 Brr! Thy unsafe eve.	8 Brr! Hey, I hug fate.	9 Brr! Unfit hyena.	10 Brr! They ate fun.	11 Brr! Heave nut, ye elf.	12 Brr! We, thy fateful.	13 Brr! Hunt yeti feather.
14 Brr! Fortunate fey hue.	15 Brr! Eye that fun fife.	16 Brr! Unify estate hex.	17 Brr! Funny esthete, Eve.	18 Brr! Fate, yet genie. Huh?	19 Brr! Aye, fine teeth, nun.	20 Brr! Yeah, unfit tweet.
21 Brr! Iffy, nutty sweater.	22 Brr! Teeny, downy faucets.	23 Brr! Winter tuft heyday.	24 Brr! Hey, you treat huffy newt.	25 Brr! Tune thy wife, Taffy.	26 Brr! Why tease nifty tux?	27 Brr! They en- vy faun's tweet.
28 Brr! Why fatten huge yeti?	[29] Brr! Why tinny tune, fate?					

2010

## MARCH – CHARM

2010

Say Dun	Dynamo	Sea Duty	Seedy Dawn	Hay Turds	A Dry If	A Dust Ray
	1 Scarf mirth,	2 conch's dream.	3 Chard mirth	4 hath cur form.	5 Chaff mirth.	6 Shh, mix cart.
7 Vet charms hen:	8 "Hi! Hatch germ	9 in nth charm."	10 Trench math?	11 Calm her hen, vet!	12 Twelfth charm:	13 The Mirth Chanter
14 came forth, hunter.	15 The Miff Chanter	16 exacts hen mirth.	17 Cavemen thresh net.	18 Race me then, thigh.	19 Enchant their men.	20 Rent them a witch.
21 Scram! Wintry theft.	22 Catchy wonder- ments	23 drew rhythm intact.	24 Thy waterfront chum	25 threw fin myth. Fact:	26 Extra hymns twitch.	27 Yachts- men threw vent.
28 The Wig Myth Chanter?	29 Art! Wench, tint hymn.	30 Art, hitch hermit.	31 Art's rhythmic rift.			

2010

## APRIL – PILAR

2010

Say Dun	Dynamo	Sea Duty	Seedy Dawn	Hay Turds	A Dry If	A Dust Ray
				1 Pairs flirt.	2 O, lip dancers,	3 drip lit. Rah
4 for ultra hip!	5 Ah, flip rift.	6 Stir lax hip.	7 Ravel this pen.	8 Rip high tale	9 in harp lint.	10 Tilt pen. Rah!
11 Er, halt evil pen.	12 Lip felt wrath.	13 Heat her lit print.	14 Thereupon a flirt	15 in hatter piffle	16 explains her tit.	17 Then lip venerates
18 theater. Hinge lip.	19 Pin theater linen.	20 Painter, whittle.	21 I print “fly- swatter.”	22 A cloned, written spy	23 threw dirt inaptly:	24 “Father Typo wilt run.”
25 Thrifty paint flew	26 twixt thin players.	27 Pen vents earthly wit.	28 Hey, pen twilight art!	29 Why print lean tint?	30 Art hit their lip.	

2010

MAY – YAM

2010

Say Dun	Dynamo	Sea Duty	Seedy Dawn	Hay Turds	A Dry If	A Dust Ray
						1 Far, misty
2 days con me.	3 Mirthday!	4 Thru foamy	5 taffy, him?	6 Hasty mix	7 at eve's hymn.	8 Hi, age myth,
9 a tin hymn.	10 Ah, my tent	11 envy the meal.	12 Fly met what?	13 Hint: my theater.	14 Mute, horny fate	15 fit hefty name.
16 Tease thy minx.	17 Yet he sent maven	18 the— the—"Y Enigma."	19 Name thy teen in	20 witty methane.	21 Try my twin's fate.	22 "Sonny," mewed Catty,
23 "Written Myth Day	24 won thy rutty fame."	25 Aw, my nifty theft,	26 wash my tiny text.	27 Why envy statement?	28 Why the gamey tint?	29 The tiny man went,
30 "Yeah, tit mirth.	31 Artist, I fry myth."					

2010

## JUNE – JENU

2010

Say Dun	Dynamo	Sea Duty	Seedy Dawn	Hay Turds	A Dry If	A Dust Ray
		1 If jets run,	2 jounces end.	3 Jet, um, hid	4 Jut Fun Hour	5 in jet huff.
6 The jinx: us!	7 Even hens jut.	8 Hug in jet, eh?	9 He, jinn nut?	10 The Jet Nun!	11 Jut, hen. Eleven	12 flew. Hunt jet.
13 Jet Nun hit ether.	14 Hone jet, tune fur	15 fife. The Jet Nun!	16 Seethe, jinx nut.	17 Even hens tune jets.	18 Huh? Genie, net jet.	19 Hen, untie jennet.
20 “Whee!” tin jet nut	21 went. “Fun’s jittery!”	22 Sunny town ejected	23 nun. Jetty writhed.	24 Jury won’t hunt feet	25 when fun fit jetty.	26 Tut! Why jinx teens?
27 Even the new net juts.	28 Entwine thy jug. The	29 jinn went nutty, eh?	30 Inherit the jut.			



2010

**JULY – JUYL**

2010

Say Dun	Dynamo	Sea Duty	Seedy Dawn	Hay Turds	A Dry If	A Dust Ray
				1 Fly, jurist!	2 Jocund lyes	3 jilt, uh, dry,
4 hurtful joy.	5 Huffy jilt?	6 X this July.	7 Lush envy, jet.	8 Hi, ethyl jug.	9 Hun, jilt NY.	10 Jut nth lye.
11 Uh, jelly event!	12 Why jell tuft?	13 Jeer thy hut lint.	14 Fuel truth. Enjoy	15 the luff jitney,	16 then jut sexily,	17 unevenly. The jest?
18 Ethylene hit jug.	19 Net thy julienne.	20 Hit nutty jewel.	21 Fly twisty jet. Run!	22 Yow! Jenny scuttled	23 jut. Hint: Dryly wet,	24 utterly fun. Why jot
25. thy wit? Fly fun jet,	26 justly whiny text.	27 Why jetty, svelte nun,	28 thy tiny jewel thug?	29 Jenny, why tilt nut?	30 Jittery lit? Huh?	31 Flirt. It's thy jury.

2010

## AUGUST – TUG U.S.A.

2010

Say Dun	Dynamo	Sea Duty	Seedy Dawn	Hay Turds	A Dry If	A Dust Ray
1 Futurists sag.	2 A dunce's gusto	3 thuds guitar.	4 A fur trout hugs	5 hat, suit, guff.	6 Ugly tax suits	7 save thugs. Tune
8 hits a huge gut.	9 Untaught sin	20 taught tunes.	11 The avenue's glut	12 felt us tug thaw.	13 Ugh! Interstate hurt,	14 thou unsafe gutter.
15 If sun taught feet,	16 hugs tauten exit.	17 Avenue's teeth stung	18 high teenage tutus.	19 Huge interstate nun,	20 hug! Win statuette!	21 Winter's a gusty tuft.
22 Now a scented guy tuts,	23 "Egad! Witty untruths!	24 Two nutty gurus heft a	25 nutty theist." Guffaw!	26 Untaught, twisty sex?	27 Why avenge? Nuts! Nuts!	28 They tug sweating hut.
29 Untwist thy gate, nun.	30 Thus, a guttier hit:	31 Art sights futuraity.				

# 2010 SEPTEMBER – BEST PER ME 2010

Say Dun	Dynamo	Sea Duty	Seedy Dawn	Hay Turds	A Dry If	A Dust Ray
			1 Be fir temptress.	2 Be specter's demon.	3 Be red pet's mirth.	4 Be three of trumps.
5 Be her stiff temp.	6 Be her imp's texts.	7 Be. She never tempts.	8 Be. Grip the themes.	9 Be. Her inns tempt.	10 Be tempters then.	11 Be her temple events.
12 Be felt. Tempt shrew.	13 Be her pert tint themes.	14 Be. Therefore tempt sun.	15 Be if the pet frets, men.	16 Be this extremest pen.	17 Be theme's serpent event.	18 Be. Steeppen thigh meter.
19 Be the preemi- nent nest.	20 Be theme's written pet.	21 Be tempter's swift entry.	22 Be sentenced to my twerps.	23 Be wettered printer's myth.	24 Be. Tree nymphs wrote tuft.	25 Be. Fetter swift nymphet.
26 Be. Hypertext twists men.	27 Be the ser- pent. My vets went.	28 Be tight, sweeter nymphet.	29 Be tenet, written nymphs.	30 Be her prettiest mirth.		

2010

## OCTOBER – COT ROBE

2010

Say Dun	Dynamo	Sea Duty	Seedy Dawn	Hay Turds	A Dry If	A Dust Ray
					1 Boo! Strict ref.	2 Boo! Recent docs.
3 Boo! Retch dirt.	4 Boo! Force truth.	5 Boo! Fetch rift.	6 Boo! Rich texts.	7 Boo! Her cent vest.	8 Boo! Tight cheer.	9 Boo! Trench nit.
10 Boo! Chert tent.	11 Boo! The clever net.	12 Boo! 1-ft. wet chert.	13 Boo! Triter etch then.	14 Boo! Our recent theft.	15 Boo! Her tint effect.	16 Boo! Extinct ethers.
17 Boo! Tree stench event.	18 Boo! Hence, grit teeth.	19 Boo! Reticent hen net.	20 Boo! Witch, tent, tree.	21 Boo! Few try crest tint.	22 Boo! Detect newt's crony.	23 Boo! Try red witch tent.
24 Boo! Recent, worthy tuft.	25 Boo! Fry wit, cent theft.	26 Boo! Wintry chest text.	27 Boo! Stretchy newt event.	28 Boo! Teeny, tight wretch.	29 Boo! Try tin tent, wench.	30 Boo! The rich titter.
31 Boo! Thrifty critters.						

2010      **NOVEMBER – MOB NERVE**      2010

Say Dun	Dynamo	Sea Duty	Seedy Dawn	Hay Turds	A Dry If	A Dust Ray
	1 No firmest verb.	2 No combed nerves.	3 No verb hid term.	4 No thumb forever.	5 No herb vet miff.	6 No berth sex vim.
7 No bent verve hems.	8 No high vet ember.	9 No thin verb, men.	10 No vet berth, men.	11 No ember, velvet hen.	12 No verb theft. Mew!	13 No verb here. Tint them.
14 No bereft humor event.	15 No beer theft. Vermin!	16 No sherbet. Men vex. it.	17 No he-men bent vet.	18 No bee met thigh. nerve.	19 No thin beet nerve, men.	20 No better whim event.
21 No witty verbs ferment.	22 No bestrewn comedy vent.	23 No winter bred vet myth.	24 No nervy mutt worth beef.	25 No web fit fervent myth.	26 No vent betwixt rhymes.	27 No beer. Why vent vestment?
28 No veg between thy mirth.	29 No brine. Vent newt myth.	30 No verb? Hit the timer!				

2010      **DECEMBER – BED CREME**      2010

Say Dun	Dynamo	Sea Duty	Seedy Dawn	Hay Turds	A Dry If	A Dust Ray
			1 Bed frets crime.	2 Embers conceded.	3 Redbird, etch me.	4 Ember, torch feud.
5 Fib! Etch red fern.	6 Crib sexed them.	7 He cemented verbs.	8 Get her bed chime.	9 Bend chimer net.	10 Mirth, be decent!	11 Even meter belched.
12 Wet chef trembled.	13 The bedtime trencher.	14 Demon, cure beer theft.	15 Fetch bidet, freemen.	16 Describe next theme:	17 “Blenched teen met verse.”	18 The emcee brightened.
19 Hence tenement bride	20 bewitched rent. Meet	21 bent mystic. Ferret wed	22 my crew, sentenced to bed,	23 my wretched written bed	24 term. Bet we found the cry.	25 My wet fence, deft birth.
26 Sexy twit benched term.	27 Then meet dewy verb scent.	28 We dent the iceberg myth.	29 My tent benched winter.	30 The crib mid the tree	31 cited merry birth fest.	