

SR Competition No. 19

At this writing many parts of this country are in the grip of a terrible drought. Desperate measures are being taken. There are more bricks in toilet tanks than in new home construction. Teenagers who used to shower monthly have cheerfully limited themselves to two baths a year. Handel's *Water Music* has been voluntarily removed from programs for the duration. We call upon all concerned *SR* readers, whether they live in the moist Carolinas or the dry Tortugas, to send us their drought relief plans. Unless the plan is very good, limit yourself to 100 words. A copy of Somerset Maugham's *The Rains Came* plus the usual \$25 to our three winners.

Entries for Competition No. 19 must be received by May 1 and the winners will be announced in the July issue. Send submissions to *SR* Competition No. 19, *Saturday Review*, 150 East 58 Street, New York, New York 10155. All entries become the property of *SR*.

Winners of No. 16

One day when we were wondering whether we would ever be able to come up with another idea for a competition we hit upon the ultimate idea: a competition of competitions! And how beautifully you responded! So many great ideas flooded in that we shall probably be living for years, as the Russians say, on old fat (just a saying, nothing personal), which means that your suggestion, whether it wins today or not, might yet produce some modest income for you months hence. WATCH THIS SPACE! And now to our winners:

First prize to Fred Gurner of New York, before whose project reels the mind:

This is it, kids! The ultimate anagram! Tear any page from the Manhattan Phone Directory and find a corresponding anagram, using all the letters of all the names on one side of the page. Cross out the side not used. As an example, we have found that page 584 of the 1980-81 directory (Gural to Gutierrez) can be anagrammatized into pages 136-137 of Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* (in the Penguin edition of Alan Russell's translation). Another is page 1359 (Tamlar to Tannenbaum), which contains all the letters of Shake-

spere's sonnets 36, 37, 38, 57, and 69. We almost had the name Tang Fung Kwan left over! Readers are warned not to tear pages out of public phone books. Besides being inconsiderate, this might tip your hand as to what pages you are working on. Out-of-towners use your own phone books. Duplicate prizes will not be awarded. Good luck!

Immediately on receiving this entry we made a quick check of the phone booths in our neighborhood and found *every single directory* missing! Not just pages—the whole thing. *Millions* of people must be working on this contest right now! No duplicate prizes, thank goodness. (Quick thinking, Gurner.) We are now looking for that page in Flaubert that contains a statistically quite improbable number of g's.

Second prize to Patrick H. Hodgkin of Culver, Indiana, for this attractive challenge:

A short story by Graham Greene entitled "A Shocking Accident" hinges on the difficulty of accepting with appropriate sobriety a death caused by a falling pig. He explains the circumstances concisely: "Apparently in the poorer quarters of Naples they keep pigs on their balconies. This one was on the fifth floor. It had grown too fat. The balcony broke." Such a mishap must, we suppose, have been reported in the local press with as much deadpan as could be mustered. Readers are asked to describe this or some similarly ludicrous fatality (in English, not Italian) in fewer than 100 words. A copy of Evelyn Waugh's *The Loved One* plus the usual \$25 to each of the three winners.

Third prize to Amy Briggs of St. Paul, Minnesota, who provided us with a malenky smeck (a small giggle; see below):

"Alas, poor Yorick, I knew him, Horatio; a veck of horrorshow chepookas, of zammechat messel, he sobiratted me a thousand razzes."

If you blinked at that passage, so might Shakespeare have done. It is our own version in "Nadsat," the slang-language of teenage villains, invented by Anthony Burgess for his novel *A Clockwork Orange*.

Lewis Carroll invented a few words, Burgess a language, and Tolkien a language with an entire world attached. All we ask you to do is come up with a couple of sentences. Name the speaker, the language, and send a translation. Winners will receive a copy of Webster's *New World Dictionary* to facilitate their

re-entry into English. Have a horror-show raz (good time)!

Well, that should at least sell a few dozen copies of our colleague Burgess's book.

Puzzles

Literary Crypt No. 164

WHEN BOTH WHT OLD EWDZ
LEE PAQUWDUZN LYWAZ ZOT
MAZAQT OLD WHT QTLPOTK
ZOT LVT ZW BQUZT LH
LAZWYUWVQLCON.

TSTENH BLAVO

Wit Twister No. 176

Edited by Arthur Swan

The object of the game is to complete the poem by thinking of one word whose letters, when rearranged, will yield the appropriate word for each series of blanks. Each dash with a blank corresponds to a letter of the word.

----- warnings tell where
storms will pass.
An ----- discovers
seeping gas.
Yet one windbag blew in and gassed
us all:
The ----- of our new
concert hall!

Answers next issue

A.S.

March Answers

Literary Crypt No. 163

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested. Francis Bacon

Wit Twister No. 175

Duse, Sued, Deus, dues, used

Middleton Double-Crostic No. 205

Ring Lardner: On Chain Letters
Outside of believing that it is bad luck to bet vs. the Yankees I ain't got no superstitions and will take this opportunity of warning my friends that I ain't going to be no party to a endless chain letter not even if it was started by Gen. Pershing.



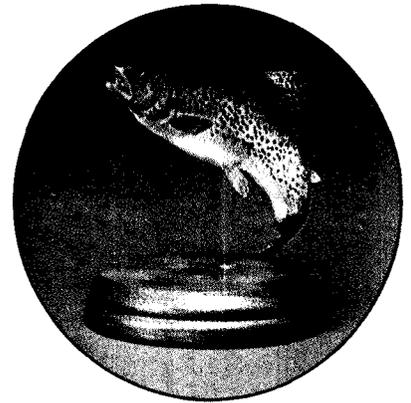
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Signature _____

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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SR RECOMMENDS

Books		Film
Fiction		
<p>☞☞ Ellis Island and Other Stories, by Mark Helprin (Delacorte Press/Seymour Lawrence, 196 pp., \$10.95). Any paragraph of Helprin's is an ideal example of the fluidity and resonance of his story-telling. Brilliant images sparkle throughout his tales about young men of various nationalities dreaming and undergoing dreamlike experiences as they come to terms with and continue to navigate the tortuous, confluent rivers of art and life. Helprin's stories are so artistically etched that reading them is like casting an eye along a row of breathtaking, perfect Steuben objects.</p> <p>☞☞ The White Hotel, by D.M. Thomas (The Viking Press, 288 pp., \$12.95). This extraordinary novel creates Lisa Erdman, a fictitious patient of Sigmund Freud, together with her erotic journal, letters from various members of Freud's inner circle, and a thoroughly convincing analysis by Freud himself—followed by Lisa's later life, death, and apotheosis. That all this is transformed into a vision of hope is the triumph of its author, a poet of astounding talent.</p> <p>☞ Midnight's Children, by Salman Rushdie (Alfred A. Knopf, 442 pp., \$13.95). With wry affection, author Salman Rushdie draws us into the kitchens and politics of an Indian family, and into the sexual struggles behind the <i>purdah</i>. Most gripping is the hero's transformation from baby, full of dreams, to adult, confused and empty, amid the disillusioning modern power struggles in his homeland. A memorable tale of family, superstition, love, belief cherished and lost that pleases the senses and the heart.</p>	<p>ple, if not for all children in European society, what John Bunyan did when he wrote <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i>: He defined the world for us. Thirty years after his death, a biographer worthy of Orwell has written the story of his life. Loving and alive, admiring but not uncritical, well-focused on its subject but with enough background and supplementary information to make him intelligible, Bernard Crick's literary biography works and works well.</p> <p>☞ The Killing of Karen Silkwood, by Richard Rashke (Houghton Mifflin, 407 pp., \$12.95). The night she died in a car accident in 1974, Karen Silkwood was on her way to meet a reporter with documents she said would prove that the Kerr-McGee nuclear plant where she worked was making defective plutonium rods. Though the documents were never found and the Oklahoma police said her death was accidental, Richard Rashke here presents new information to indicate that she was run off the road. Much of his book is devoted to events in the years since Silkwood's death and to an informative discussion of the issues surrounding nuclear energy. In places his argument is melodramatic, but he tells a frightening story.</p> <p>☞ Magda Goebbels: First Lady of the Third Reich, by Hans-Otto Meissner (Dial Press, 288 pp., \$14.95). The true-life tragedy of Magda Goebbels, her martyred children, and her husband Joseph—Hitler's twisted, club-footed alter ego, Minister of Propaganda in the Third Reich, and supersatyr ruler of the German film industry—is heady stuff. Steady restraint and a hard rein on any urge to add high color to the dazzling ironies and horror give us a stately, measured, intimate picture of world monsters seen on human scale.</p>	<p>☞☞☞ The Last Metro. François Truffaut's "cultural" melodrama about a theater troupe's survival in Paris during the Nazi occupation is an engrossing, frequently dazzling and uniquely satisfying entertainment, with Catherine Deneuve and Gerard Depardieu among its chief attractions.</p> <p>☞☞ Caddie. This Australian film biography of a suburban housewife who supported herself and her children working as a barmaid in Sydney during the Twenties and the Depression is given substance by Helen Morse as the valiant heroine and texture by Donald Crombie's direction, with period and place brought to glowing life.</p> <p>☞☞ Eyewitness. Written by Steve Tesich and directed by Peter Yates, this thriller offers an original, topical, and complex plot, with a wonderfully dense variety of New York City characters and locales. First-rate performances by William Hurt, Sigourney Weaver, et al.</p>
Nonfiction		Theater
<p>☞☞ George Orwell, by Bernard Crick (Atlantic Monthly/Little, Brown, 576 pp., \$19.95). In writing <i>1984</i> George Orwell did for English-speaking peo-</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>SR's Phoenix Code</p> <p>☞☞☞☞ Outstanding</p> <p>☞☞☞ Excellent</p> <p>☞☞ Good</p> <p>☞ Notable</p> </div>	<p>☞☞☞ The Pirates of Penzance (Uris Theater, New York City). Director Wilford Leach and music director William Elliott set an overall tone of intelligence and charm. This <i>Pirates</i> has been put together by contemporary Americans who love and respect the work but who will not try to mimic Victorian Englishmen or their descendants. Unapologetically starring pop singer Linda Ronstadt as Mabel.</p> <p>☞☞ The Elephant Man (Booth Theater, New York City). The play—not the movie. An innocent but monstrously disfigured man becomes a socially modish figure in Victorian London. The play satirizes antiquated morality (always an easy target), but its sense of humanity is honest and moving.</p> <p>☞☞ 42nd Street (Winter Garden Theater, New York City). "Hear the beat/of dancing feet," says the title song, and</p>