Olive
pgs 44-45
Start: Olive - Sorry about that- William Right?
End: Barfee - That's so retarded.

Barfee
pgs 44-45
Start: Olive - Sorry about that- William Right?
End: Barfee - That's so retarded.
AND
pg 17-18
Start: Panch - Mr. Barfee
End: Barfee - I know

Marcy
pg 56-57
Start: Marcy - Jesus?
End: Marcy - CAMAFLAJZH

Chip (as Jesus)
pg 56-57
Start: Marcy - Jesus?
End: Marcy - CAMAFLAJZH
AND
pg 36-37
Start: Chip - (voice over) Marigold...
End: Chip - No but I wasn't sure if you heard both t's. Obviously I know how to spell it...

Coney
pg 12-13
Start: Marcy - Leaf! Phone!
End: Leaf it is? I can’t believe it.
AND
(Coney as Carl Dad)
pg 60-61
Start: Carl - Dad Breathe Logainne. You're ok
End: Carl - Dad or a Mom?

Schwartzy
Start: Carl - Dad Breathe Logainne. You're ok
End: Carl - Dad or a Mom?
(CHIP)
IT WILL RUIN YOUR COMPLEXION.
ALL BECAUSE OF MY UNFORTUNATE
ERECITION.
OH GOD

BARFEE
See you next year.
(CHIP throws package of peanut M&Ms at Barfee.)
What are you nuts!
(see what it is)
Nuts! You threw the yellow ones!
Will someone pick up the p—? I can't be near the peanuts!
(OLIVE comes and picks up the package. Gives it back to Chip.)
You could be disqualified for that—if you hadn't already been eliminated!
(RONA separates the kids.)

CHIP
You know something, Barf: I may have lost, but you are the biggest loser here.
(walks away)

BARFEE
Oh yeah? Well, that is a common misperception.
(CHIP holds up and shakes a bag or two of peanut M&M's to threaten Barfee.
RONA grabs Chip and pulls him offstage.
CHIP and BARFEE shout ad-libs at each other as Chip exits [eg: Barfee -- "This is a
bully-free zone" from the original set, by Beowulf Boritt, that had that sign visible on
stage])

OLIVE
Sorry about that—William, right? I'm Olive.

BARFEE
I know your name. Look, I do not need pity from a person named after a vegetable.

OLIVE
It's a fruit.

BARFEE
Well it's a disgusting fruit, and I can't keep them down.

(this really is hurtful
Oh.

I guess it's okay for a

Did you know that if

(thinks about it)
Did you know that if "William"?

Yeah but you can sw

Are these really the

Um. Yeah?

Okay.
I'm more of a scienc

Well you're also a r

Yeah? Thanks.
(OLIVE goes to j
"Olive." "I love." -

#10—Woe Is Me

(Adults re-enter.

Ladies and gentle
We have, home-sc
OLIVE

(this really is hurtful enough that she'll give up and walk away)

Oh.

BARFEE

I guess it's okay for a name though.

OLIVE

Did you know that if you switch the first two vowels in "Olive" it becomes "I love"?

BARFEE

(thinks about it)

Did you know that if you switch the first two vowels in "William" it becomes "William"?

OLIVE

Yeah but you can switch the next two—then it's "will aim."

BARFEE

Are these really the kind of things you think about?

OLIVE

Um, yeah?

BARFEE

Okay.
I'm more of a science guy myself.

OLIVE

Well you're also a really great speller.

BARFEE

Yeah? Thanks.

(OLIVE goes to join the others. After they have parted)

"Olive." "I love." —That's so retarded.

end

#10—Woe Is Me

(Adults re-enter.)

RONA

Ladies and gentlemen our final spellers. Let's give them a hand.
We have, home-schooled from the Basin, Leaf Coneybear.
Specific words rotate from list at discretion of actor playing PANCH (except when set cues).

The first audience volunteer is given a word we do expect them to spell correctly. Often “Jihad.” The ideal word is one that the speller will get right but still seem smart in doing so. After definition and sentence given, volunteer generally gets this right and is applauded by cast and audience.

PANCH

[Calls audience volunteer #2 ]

AUDIENCE VOLUNTEER TWO

(Rona comment, chosen at RONA’s discretion, e.g., Mr. Y is a prematurely gray ten year old.

The second volunteer is given a word we expect them to get wrong. (Eg: Pakapoo, Chinese lottery). However, if first audience volunteer has been eliminated, second volunteer is given an easy word, e.g. indigent, to try to ensure that three audience volunteers remain.

Whenever first audience volunteer gets out, the bell rings, PANCH gives correct spelling, and company sings “Goodbye” variation #1.)

SPellers

GOODBYE, YOU WERE GOOD BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH
SO PLEASE DON’T ASK WHY
SIMPLY SAY GOODBYE

(Variations on “Goodbyes” follow all audience members’ exits.)

PANCH

Mr. Barfee

BARFEE

– It’s Barfée –

RONA

Mr. Barfee has a rare mucus membrane disorder

PANCH

LUGUBRIous

BARFEE

Yes, of course. Lugubrious, meaning extremely sad and droopy?

PANCH

More or less, yes.
BARFEE
A topic I am all too familiar with. One moment please.

RONA
Okay watch this technique – He calls it the Magic Foot, and he’s the only one I’ve ever seen use it. He spells it out on the floor so he can get a visual and then speaks it out loud. Incredible.

BARFEE
Lugubrious.
L-U-G-U – Lugu!
B-R-I-O-U-S – Lugubrious.

PANCH
That is correct.

BARFEE
I know.

PANCH
[Calls Audience volunteer 3]

AUDIENCE VOLUNTEER THREE

RONA
(Rona comment, e.g. for bald person)
Mr. Z is recovering from headlice.

PANCH
(This is a set slot, in that it must be an easy word. If a different word is desired, be sure it will still elicit protest. Easiest though is to keep this as scripted below.)

MEXICAN

CHIP, BARFEE & SCHWARZY

Mexican!

CHIP
That’s so easy!

PANCH
Only the speller at the microphone may repeat the word.
(to audience volunteer)
Mexican.
RONA

That is very impressive—especially the piano.

("especially the piano" meaning "not the table" that in Dan Knechtges and James Lapine’s staging MARCY has karate-chopped in half at end of song)

PANCH

Miss Park the word is CAMOUFLAGE.

MARCY

Camouflage.

(to herself)

Dear Jesus, can't you come up with a harder word than that?

JESUS

(from offstage)

Of course I can, my child

#13 – Jesus

ALL

AAAAAHHHHHHHH!

(JESUS appears, played by actor playing Chip.

MARCY is absolutely astounded to see him – none of her parochial education has prepared her for this.)

MARCY

Jesus?

JESUS

Marcy?

MARCY

Hi!

(depending on casting, we sometimes replace with: Wow—Jesus—I knew you were Asian!)

JESUS

Hi.

MARCY

How are you?

JESUS

I'm good. Is that your prayer, Marcy, for a more difficult word?
MARCY
Well yeah it was but now that you’re here can I ask for something better?

JESUS
I’m here for you now Marcy. C’est pour toi que je suis ici.

MARCY
(convinced, she decides to take this seriously and ask something she really would like to know)
Jesus... I was wondering what would happen if I didn’t win today.

JESUS
What do you think would happen?

MARCY
I don’t know, but what I mean is, would you be disappointed with me if I lost?

JESUS
Of course not—but Marcy? I also won’t be disappointed with you if you win.
(Beat as SHE looks confused)

MARCY
You’re saying it’s up to me then?

JESUS
Yes, and also, this isn’t the kind of thing I care very much about.

ALL
AAAAHHHHHHHH!

MARCY
Camouflage. C-A-M... O-U
(still deciding)
F-L... A... J
(and as soon as she dares miss the first letter, she takes more and more joy in getting it wrong)...

Z!!... H!! Camaflajzh!

MARCY
I BLEW THAT WORD.
I BLEW THAT WORD
PRAISE JESUS!
LIFE HAS SUCH POSSIBILITY

end

GIRLS
SHE BLEW THAT WORD
PRAISE JESUS!
PANCH
Miss Park, your word is QAIMAQAM.

PARK

That’s remarkable.

And correct.

Miss Park is all business.

MARCY
(genuinely surprised to hear this is thought of her)
I am not.

Mr. Tolentino.

CHIP [Generally Voiceover]

(caught up in his fantasy)
Marigold...
Marigold Coneybear...
That’s a really lovely sweater, Marigold...

PANCH
Chip. Chip. Chip!

CHIP
Sorry – is it my turn to spell?

PANCH
Yes!

RONA
A rare break in concentration from Mr. Tolentino

CHIP
Um, can you maybe skip me now and ask me two in a row later?

PANCH
Why would you want to do that?

CHIP
I’d rather not say?

You can either take you
I’ll take my turn now.

Another excellent decis

TITTUP
What?

The word is: TITTUP.

Definition please.

It means “lively move sound of horses hoov

Tittup. T...I...
(reluctantly, but he
T...U—Oh wait. Twc
(Ding)

I’m sorry, the correct

That’s exactly what

But first you said “”

No, but, I wasn’t su

#6 – Pandemonium

(can overlap abot
“It if you start to spe
PANCH
You can either take your turn now or forfeit.

CHIP
I'll take my turn now.

RONA
Another excellent decision by the incumbent.

PANCH

TITTUP

CHIP
What?

PANCH
The word is: TITTUP.

CHIP
Definition please.

PANCH
It means “lively movement or behavior”, or “to move restlessly.” It refers to the sound of horses hooves – tittup, tittup, tittup.

CHIP
Tittup. T...I...
(reluctantly, but he knows it)
(Ding)

PANCH
I’m sorry, the correct spelling is T-I-T-T-U-P. Tittup.

CHIP
That’s exactly what I said.

PANCH
But first you said “T-I-T-U—Oh wait, two t’s..."

CHIP
No, but, I wasn’t sure if you heard both t’s. I obviously know how to spell it...

end

#6 — Pandemonium (Reprise)

PANCH
(can overlap above)
"If you start to spell a word you may start over..."
RONA
Miss Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre is head of the Gay-Straight Alliance at her elementary school.

PANCH

STRABISMUS

SCHWARZY
Strabismus. May I please have the definition of that word?

PANCH
“The inability of one eye to obtain binocular vision with the other because of an imbalance of the muscles of the eyeball.”

SCHWARZY
And use in a sentence please?

PANCH
“In the schoolyard Billy protested that he wasn’t cockeyed. ‘I suffer from strabismus,’ he said, whereupon the bullies beat him harder.”

(As PANCH looks to RONA for approval, SCHWARZY is tracing the word on her arm with her finger.)

RONA
Notice how she writes on her forearm. This is her way to see the word before she speaks it out loud.

SCHWARZY

PANCH
That is correct.
Mr. Coneybear.

RONA
Mr. Coneybear was second runner up in the Putnam Basin district.

(Phone rings. A flashback to the moment when he found out he's in. Actors rise as they assume roles.)

SCHWARZY as LEAF’S MOM
Brook, will you tell Leaf he has a phone call, please?

MARRY as LEAF'S SISTER
Leaf! Phone!

CONEBEAR
Thanks! I got it!
Hello, Leaf speaking. Uh, huh. Uh, huh. Uh, huh.
You're kidding? I'm gonna represent the Basin in the bee? Wow, I can't believe it.
(As he calls his family members, kids rise taking on these roles. They also pull up the spellers to be “Paul” and other siblings. One audience volunteer is left seated. When this volunteer rises, she is told to sit back down again, providing a visual punchline to the sequence.)

Mom, Dad, Marigold, Brook, Pinecone, Raisin, Landscape, Paul, — you’re not going to believe this!

BARFEE as LEAF’S DAD

What’s up, Leaf?

LEAF

I made the county finals in the spelling bee!

(LEAF’S FAMILY laughs.)

SCHWARZY as MOM

Oh sweetheart, no, you came in third honey.

LEAF

I know! but they just called and said the person who came in first has to go to their bat mitzvah, and the person who came in second... has to attend the bat mitzvah, so they want me to do it!

SCHWARZY as MOM

You understand the other kids will have all won their district bees?

(LEAF’S FAMILY laughs.)

LEAF

Yeah but well but

PANCH

(calling Leaf’s attention back)

CAPYBARA

What?

CONBEAR

Your word is Capybara.

PANCH

Is that a word?

CONBEAR

That’s a word, yes.

CONBEAR

No way — what does it mean?
"a tailless largely aquatic South American rodent often exceeding four feet in length"

CONEBEAR

Awesome. What else can I ask?

PANCH

You're allowed to ask for the word's language of origin or to have the word used in a sentence...

CONEBEAR

Oh—can you use it in a sentence?

PANCH

Yes. "Don't look now Pedro but I think that tailless, largely aquatic four-and-a-half foot rodent swimming next to you may be a capybara."

CONEBEAR

Wow, that didn't help at all!

PANCH

Are you ready to spell the word Mr. Coneybear?

CONEBEAR

No, but it was fun to come here—
(to family in audience)
Hi guys—my whole family's here which is really...
(trance suddenly takes him)

PANCH

That is correct.

CONEBEAR

It is?
I can't believe it.

PANCH

Miss Ostrovsky

CONEBEAR

(as he returns to his seat)
It's unbelievable, I just said the first letters that came into my head, and that "y" was really...

ALL

Shhh.
SCHWARZY
Hm. Are there any alternate definitions?

PANCH
Yes—it’s a body of water pent up behind a floodgate.

SCHWARZY
Are there any alternate definitions?

PANCH
Why don’t you quit stalling and spell the damn word!!

RONA
Principal Panch!

PANCH
Vice Principal Panch! Vice Principal! They won’t let me be principal.

BARFEE
Gee, I wonder why.

SCHWARZY
(very upset, over the rest)
SLUICE. S-L-U-I-E. SLUICE!

RONA
That is correct.
(to Panch)
What is wrong with you?

(Ad-libs as MITCH pulls PANCH offstage with RONA assisting him.

different productions have handled this differently—in one Panch collapses and is
pulled offstage, in another Panch continues fit and has to be subdued, or Panch
approaches Mitch to get him to do something and Mitch pulls Panch off in headlock]

CARL DAD comes on stage from in the audience as OLIVE goes to comfort
SCHWARZY. CARL DAD shoos OLIVE away.)

CARL DAD
Thanks Sweetie, I’ll take it from here. Can we have a little privacy please?
Breathe, Logainne. You’re okay, buck up.
(as he pours a can of coke on the floor)
Oh that’s no good.
(aside to Schwarzy)
No, no, let that dry.

(pulls her aside)
The foot, we hav
What foot?
The magic foot.
Wouldn’t that be
Do you want to
Yes, but I believ
And isn’t havin
I don’t have a r
Or a mother?
Can we have a
(to Olive)
You’re lucky y
No, only my n
(As he retur
Mitch, I app
also an occa
adding anyt)
I apologize fo
intolerant. Mi
(to Rona)
What did my
(CARL DAD)

(pulls her aside)
The foot, we have to disable the foot.

SCHWARZY

What foot?

CARL DAD

The magic foot.

SCHWARZY

Wouldn't that be wrong?

CARL DAD

Do you want to win?

SCHWARZY

Yes, but I believe in ethical conduct.

CARL DAD

And isn't having a magic foot an unfair advantage?

SCHWARZY

I don't have a magical foot.

CARL DAD

Or a mother?

RONA

Can we have all parents in their seats please. This is not a soccer game.

SCHWARZY

(to Olive)

You're lucky your parents are in India.

OLIVE

No, only my mom is. My dad's coming from work.

PANCH

(As he returns, he ad libs thanks to MITCH, only if needed for staging – e.g. "Thanks Mitch, I appreciate the tough love and the juice box." The "defense" PANCH offers is also an occasional ad lib spot. Again, if staging allows, keep things moving rather than adding anything to the moment. The briefer the better.)

I apologize for that incident. In my defense I'd like to point out that I am lactose intolerant. Miss Ostrovsky.

OLIVE

(to Rona)

What did my dad say?
OLIVE:

I wrote you a letter how I found the spelling bee such fun
Mama mama mama mama but you didn't react.

And you never asked me if I'd join you in the Bombay sun.

Mama mama mama mama I had quietly packed.

+Vibes (trem.)

+Vibes (trem.)

+Vcl.

w/Vcl.
When are you returning? I know we agreed.

Tell me what you're learning. Ma, I have. Oh God, this need.

A Tempo

I think Dad is angry ma, and I do not know what to do.
Ma ma ma ma ma ma shan ti shan ti, and ohm.

I think he takes out on me what he wants to take out on you.

Freely

wish you were home. How I wish you were home. How I wish you were, wish you were.

PLAY
OLIVE'S MOM:  
We always knew you were a winner.

OLIVE:
home.

OLIVE'S DAD:
We always knew you were a winner.

Syn (RH), Alto (middle voice)  
Alto w/Glock  

Vcl.  

w/Syn.

OLIVE'S MOM:  
A bathing beauty you.

OLIVE:
home.  
How I wish you were, how I wish you were
How I wish you were, how I wish you were home. 
God, we loved the way you grew since you were born.
Olive, we couldn't be prouder. Please let me say it one time louder.
Mama, mama, mama, How I wish you were home.
Please let me say it one time louder.
BARFEE: One Moment Please...
RONA: He’s going for the foot!

MAGIC FOOT

BARFEE: Magic foot, take me to the final round.

MAGIC FOOT, barely lifted off the ground.
Magic foot, do it without making a sound.

A little Faster

Magic (Cello 8vb)

+Drums (ragtime, brushes) throughout

+Timp, Syn (Bass/Tuba)

foot, write that letter. Magic

Syn (Marimba), Clar. 8vb, Cello 15mb
foot.

write the perfect
letter. Magic

foot.

it's an alphabet way to

Clar.
Cello 8vb

Solo

+Syn 8vb

spell.

Okay, let's see what we got here, foot....

+Syn (Accordion),
Clar., Cello

mf

+Cello
foot,
Syn (West Coast), Clar., Cello 8vb

Be spe-ci-fic.

Syn: +wbblk
Clar.

It's hor-ri-fic if you're not spe-ci-fic. Ma-gic

-cello

It's ter-riffic when yo

+Syn 8vb
Rit.

Do do do do do do do do do do do do do
Ah

Clarinette

Cello

f

+Syn (West Coast, Accord., H

+Clarinette 8va

Broadly

foot,

BOYS: Ahh

Ma - gic

foot.

write that let-ter. Ma - gic

GIRLS: Ma - gic foot.

Foot!
foot, write the stupid letter. Magic foot. Magic Foot!

foot, it's an alphabet-ter way to Magic foot Magic foot!

Synth., Stgs. (+Vcl)
I SPEAK SIX LANGUAGES

MARCY: Well it should, and it should say...

BRIGHTLY

I speak six languages.

RONA: Ah, Six.
Every language easy, easy as the recipe for making jello.

I speak six languages, and I can say hello.

RONA: It does say you’re an athlete...

in at least seven more.

To explain,
cel in ath - le - tics is not dif - ficult if one has the tem - pera - ment. Ap

parent - ly, I have the tem - pera - ment.

Yes I score some goals. So un - fazed am I
As my life unscrolls

unamazed am I. I don't like to brag and I

won't cause I don't have to, but
I speak six languages,

Fl w/Vcl.

All-American in hockey, And

Syn.

+Vcl.

V.
Every time I stretch I stretch without getting sore.

I speak six languages, and I

like the theme from Rocky.

Syna

+Vcl

+WB
though I play Mozart more

GIRLS: OO

Ooh.

Syn.Fl.Xylo

(Xylo out)

+Syn.

+w/Syn (LH)

+Vcl.

I achieve my goals,

So unfazed am I

Aah.

Syn (RH) w/Fl.

w/Syn (LH)

+Dumbek

+Vcl.

V.
CHIP'S LAMENT

[Segue from Entr'acte]

It is tradition

+Syn (Xylo), Clar. Sva, Cello +Snare

+Syn (Bass) & Drums throughout

that the person eliminated from the competition

fair game for decision especially the alpha male,
will sell good-ies at the bake sale.

Alto Sax, Cello 8vb

Syn (Poly Saws)

A-ny-one for brown-ies? A-ny-one for choc-late chips? A-ny-one for a-ny-thing that

is n't da-ted? How could I have been e-lim i-
nated? You wanna know how? You wanna know why?

My unfortunate reaction is destroying my perfection.

Syn (Honky Tonk) + E. Pno. + Mod Pad

Drums (cont'd) - ragtime feel (Cello out)
It is my recollection that everything I once did.

(Cello out)

I did perfectly. Last year's champ defeated early!

Because

(Sax out) +Sax +Sax 8vb +tri.

+Cello 15mb +p+Syn

of

Marigold Coney bear. Because there's something and not a thing

(tri out) Sax

+Syn 8va

+pizz. Cello +pizz. Cello
_be-tween us. I don't blame my brain but I do blame my penis.

My unfortunate pro-\text{t}u-\text{berance seems to have its own ex-\text{u}-\text{berance. A-ny-one for M & Ms? De-li-cious and app-ro-pri-e-

\text{Syn (British B) + Sax}

\text{Syn-loco}
brings its own peculiar rejection, which is why I'm selling this P. T. A. constellation.

It will
PANCH: Would you like to forfeit your turn? [go]
RONA: Why don't you just give it your best shot, Mr. Coneybear.

Moderately, freely

CONEBEAR:

(Piano Tacet until m. 10
Synth: NylonE Piano

My siblings have been telling me that for years.

That I'm

+Vcl.
We're schooled at home, they see who's bright. It breaks my heart. I'm not that smart.

A tempo

I have a gentle personality.

Which you'll all agree is a
na the ma to my more a gress ive fa mi ly.

Colla Voce  KIDS:  CONEYBEAR:

Ev ery one keeps swat ting, "Dumb kid!"  ev ery one keeps yel ling, "Dumb kid!"

How could a flea such as

A tempo

me think he'd be good at spel ling?

Synth:NylonB Piano

Flute

+Vcl.

Synth:Ac Bass
I don't know. I like my hair.

Really it is pleasant to the touch. I toss my hair a bit too much.

It does not move, it simply sits. I make a part. I'm not that smart.
CONEYBEAR: I've forgotten the word.
PANCH: Oh my God, Acouchi.
CONEYBEAR: Right. The rodent resembling the other rodent, what was the other-
A-C-O-U-C-H-I, Acouchi.
PANCH: That is correct.

My siblings can't believe that I got it right. (but I got it right)

I saw this light and it was neat. I like to

Vcl. (15vb)
laugh, I like to spell I like
never hear the bell.

And if this

Synth.

Flute, Synth

Drs. (out)

competition's hell, at least I'm finally a part.

Flute

+Synth.

+Drs.

Drs. (time)

I feel my heart.

be gin to swell, I like...

I

Flute

+Vcl. 3

Drs.

—61—
Faster

love. to spell!

Flt, Vcl.
(15vb)

+Synth Harpschd. (8vb)

(say on F++ or go to A)

I like it a lot

Flt, Vcl,
Synth. Brs.
&Shtgs.

+Drs.
I hope you can love me, A - me - ri - ca, 
I'm gunning for first prize

Here's why you should love me, A - me - ri - ca, 
My needs I can-not o - ver - come

I make - my-self cra - zy 
being what my dads hope -
But what about me, dads? What about me?

Jesus Christ, what about me?

CARL: Practice your breathing, Logainne.

me?
Though I practice Yoga, I don't breathe. I try not to disappoint, but still, I disappoint the da-

my friends mock. Kids are mean. kids'll talk. All my so-called "friends" ri-

eyes, they're incredibly petty. Because my dads are my dads, and, all right, enough already.
CARL: (wanting Logainne to pose by herself): Take another one for her B.M.
SCHWARZY: Dad! DAN: Don't call her that, Carl.
DAN: Who'd be very proud if she could see you spell.

(Cl out)
Syn. (RH - start on 4th x)
Vcl (pizz.) (start on 3rd x)

pp
w/Syn (starts on 2nd x)