CALLBACK SELECTION #1
PANCH and CONEYBEAR, p. 12-13

PANCH

CAPYBARA

What?

PANCH

Your word is Capybara

CONEYBEAR

Is that a word?

PANCH

That’s a word, yes

CONEYBEAR

No way – what does it mean?

PANCH

“a tailless largely aquatic South American rodent often exceeding four feet in length”

CONEYBEAR

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…

CONEYBEAR

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.”

CONEYBEAR

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.
CALLBACK SELECTION #2
CARL DAD (Coneybear), SCHWARZY, and DAD DAD (Mitch), p. 26 – 27

(CARL DAD is drilling Schwarzy – CARL played by Coneybear, DAN by Mitch. It’s a very fast drill – he keeps them coming and she spells extremely quickly.)

Segue.

S-E-G-U-E

Good. Siphon.

S-I-P-H-O-N

Good. Cystitis

S-

No. Think.

C-

Good.

I-

No! Logainne – are you concentrating?

Yes-

Maybe it’s time for a break?
CARL DAD
Dan, we’re in the middle of a word here

DAN DAD
You know she doesn’t spell well when her blood-sugar is low, Carl.

CARL DAD
We gotta build up her stamina – The bee could last three hours.

DAN DAD
Don’t you talk to me about stamina, Carl!

CARL DAD
Daddy conference. Now

SCHWARZY
No, dads, let me get this one first, please!
OLIVE

Sorry

RONA

Don’t be sorry, just turn and face us,

*(OLIVE turns and steps towards the desk)*

*RONA ad-lib... “no, don’t walk towards us”, “just pivot your head”, “now speak into the microphone, now – no...”, etc...*

*OLIVE ends up twisted and confused.)*

You know, this girl needs to learn how to stand like a champion!

*(as SHE approaches OLIVE and corrects her)*

Shoulders back. Chin up. Hair away from the face. Very good.

*(RONA turns away and OLIVE’s posture collapses again. Seeing this)*

It’s a hard age for girls.

*(CONEYBEAR falls off his chair)*

And boys.

With this difference: Ask a child in a spelling bee if they expect to win, and boys and girls are trained to respond differently. The correct response for boys is:

BARFEE

I’m taking it all. You’re all going down!

RONA

While the correct response for girls is:

SCHWARZY

Honestly, I think there’s a good chance I would do okay, but it’s unlikely I’d win the whole thing, I’m a good speller, but I’m not a truly great speller, and though I have trained hard there’s so much luck involved.

RONA

Though in my experience the girls are sometimes thinking:

SCHWARZY

I’m taking it all. You’re all going down, suckas!
RONA
While the boys are sometimes thinking:

BARFEE
I really don’t know – am I good enough, or not?

OLIVE
(out, simply, to audience)
I’m thinking about does flagellate have one ell or two – and also about how if you take thw “w” of answer and the “h” in ghost and the extra “a” in aardvark and the “t” in listen, you could keep saying “what” but nobody would hear, cause the whole word would be silent.
CALLBACK SELECTION #4
PANCH and CHIP, p. 36-37

Mr. Tolentino

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

Chip. Chip. Chip!

Sorry – is it my turn to spell?

Yes!

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

Why would you want to do that?

I’m rather not say?

You can either take your turn now or forfeit.

I’ll take my turn now.

TITTUP

What?

The word is: TITTUP

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)

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…

PANCH

(can overlap above)

“If you start to spell a word you may start over but the sequences of letters already spoken may not be changed”
Mitch:
You can’t comfort these damn kids. They don’t yet know that the good don’t always win, so there’s nothing you can say to cheer them up when they lose. I want to tell them disappointment doesn’t last—but from what I’ve seen disappointment lasts like hell. I want to tell them words don’t matter; but from what I’ve seen words can get you killed. I just want to beat them up a little, so they understand that pain has degrees, and this is nothing—this is nothing, you little freaks. But that would violate my parole. So I do what I can. I give them a hug and a juice box. I’m here to give comfort.
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.

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.
CALLBACK SELECTION #7
RONA and MARCY, p. 53 – 54

RONA
Miss Park speaks five languages.

MARCY
(SHE’s had it with these comments)
No I don’t.

RONA
Don’t you?

MARCY
No.

RONA
Well it also says that you won your school’s handwriting competition.

MARCY
And does it say that I only sleep three hours a night, and I hide in the bathroom cabinet, and I’m not allowed to cry?

RONA
(checking list)
No, it doesn’t say that.

MARCY
Well, it should. And it should say I speak six languages.

RONA
Ah. Six.
CALLBACK SELECTION #8
MARCY and JESUS, p. 56

MARCY
Camouflage.
(to herself)
Dear Jesus, can’t you come up with a harder word than that?

JESUS
Of course I can, my child
(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!

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.

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, ould 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.