

MADDIE ARNOLD

"SPELLING BEE"

2/4/18 (VERSION #3)

CAST

SALLY - 13 years old. Smart. Strong-willed.

JAMES - 13 years old. Smart. A bit timid.

PROCTOR - Late 30s.

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Int. auditorium

The year 2057. We see chairs set up on the stage like a spelling bee, with a mic at center stage. All of the chairs are empty except for two, which are filled with the final contestants.

PROCTOR

Alriiiiight, contestants.  
Congratulations on making it to the  
final round of the  
two-thousand-fifty-seven Tom Petty  
Memorial Middle School's ninth  
annual Spelling Bee! Sally, James,  
are we ready to begin?

SALLY and JAMES nod their heads nervously.

PROCTOR (CONT'D)

Great! Let's start with Sally.

Sally stands up and approaches the mic. She's ready.

PROCTOR

Sally, your word is BUMBLEBEE.

SALLY

BUMBLEBEE? May I have the  
definition please?

PROCTOR

BUMBLEBEE. My favorite transformer.

SALLY

Okay...uhhh, may I have the form of  
speech please?

PROCTOR

Noun.

SALLY

(Still completely confused)

Okay. Uhm...can you please use it  
in a sentence?

PROCTOR

Sure. "Bumblebee is a brave  
soldier, this is what he would  
want."

SALLY

Okay....thank you? Bumblebee...  
bumblebee....okay...B-U-M-B-A-L-B-E.  
BUMBLEBEE.

PROCTOR

I'm sorry, Sally, that is  
incorrect. Please be seated. James,  
your turn.

SALLY returns to her seat looking hurt, confused, and  
defeated. JAMES is in shock, he looks confused too. He  
slowly rises.

SALLY

(to JAMES)

Good luck. It's a war out there.

James approaches the mic.

PROCTOR

James, your word is GLACIER.

JAMES

(In awe)

GLACIER? May I have the definition  
please?

PROCTOR

A slowly moving mass or river of  
ice formed by the accumulation and  
compaction of snow.

JAMES

Can you please use it in a  
sentence?

PROCTOR

Yes. "The best flavor of gatorade  
is 'GLACIER FREEZE.'"

JAMES

Okay. Uhhhh  
 Glacier...glacier...G-L-A-S-E-R.  
 GLACIER.

PROCTOR

I'm sorry, James, that is  
 incorrect. Sally, your turn.

James returns to his seat, confused and discouraged. Sally rises.

PROCTOR

Sally, your word is CALIFORNIA.

SALLY

May I have the word origin?

PROCTOR

The word originates from the best  
 Red Hot Chili Peppers song of all  
 time.

SALLY

Uhhhh, okay. Okay. California.  
 California. C-A-L-- Okay, NO. I'm  
 sorry, sir but I think I speak for  
 both James and myself when I say  
 that these words are just plain  
 JIBBERISH. NOT REAL! Are you just  
 making them up?

PROCTOR

WHAT? You think California is a  
 made up word? California was a very  
 real place.

Proctor starts to reminisce.

Full of funkadelic music, daisy  
 dukes, droughts, and druuuugs,  
 babeey! Where the summer of love  
 never ended and the guacamole  
 flowed like water but the water  
 didn't flow because there was a  
 constantly a drought until there  
 was an earthquake that caused  
 California to fall into the ocean  
 which had already risen due to the  
 melting of the GLACIERS, so then  
 they got TOO much water. But  
 California was real. And it was  
 magnificent.

Proctor snaps out of it. James joins SALLY center stage.

JAMES  
OH! So like Atlantis!

PROCTOR  
Uh, no. What? Atlantis is  
completely fictional.

The kids look extremely confused. They're nodding their  
heads but they just don't get it.

JAMES  
Ohhhh. That's bonkers!

SALLY  
Woooow.

JAMES  
Yeah, that's pretty sad. I wonder  
what else we don't know about...

JAMES returns to his seat, SALLY stays center, both still  
contemplating this new information.

PROCTOR  
Yeah. So anyway, Sally, your new  
word is ANALOG.

SALLY  
A WHAT NOW?

BLACKOUT.