

PANCH

Miss Park, your word is QAIMAQAM.

PARK

Qaimaqam. A lieutenant or deputy in the Ottoman Empire. A rare exception to the Q-U rule. From the Turkish. Q-A-I-M-A-Q-A-M. Qaimaqam.

PANCH

That's remarkable.

PARK

And correct.

RONA

Miss Park is all business.

MARCY

*(genuinely surprised to hear this is thought of her)*

I am not.

PANCH

Mr. Tolentino.

START

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?

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

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)

T-U-Oh wait. Two t's. You heard both, right? Backing up, T-I-T-T-U-P. Tittup.

(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

But, I wasn't sure if you heard both t's. I obviously know how to spell it...

Indemonium (Reprise)

PANCH

an overlap above) ONCE YOU START TO SPELL A WORD, YOU MAY START OVER

ALL

...but the sequences of letters already spoken may not be changed"

CHIP

(can overlap above)

That's not fair. I got it right. I can't get out on a word I spelled right.

~~MITCH~~

~~LIFE IS RANDOM AND UNFAIR~~

~~LIFE IS PANDEMONIUM~~

CHIP

I said two t's. I won last year.

~~MITCH~~

~~THAT'S THE REASON WE DESPAIR~~

~~MITCH & SPELLERS~~

~~LIFE IS PANDEMONIUM~~

~~LIFE IS PANDEMONIUM~~

~~LIFE IS PANDEMONIUM~~

~~LIFE IS PANDEMONIUM~~

~~LIFE IS PANDEMONIUM~~

~~START~~ (All freeze but MITCH.)

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.

(bringing all back to life)

~~Let's go.~~

CHIP

Miss Peretti, can I have one more chance? Please?

(MITCH looks to RONA; RONA looks to PANCH; PANCH looks at the bell - and rings it.

Ding)

END

MITCH

Let's go kid.