**SIDES FOR SPELLING BEE AUDITIONS**

For your initial audition, please be prepared to perform the side related to your preferred character. Memorized would be nice, but you may read it as well. If you are called back, there will be more extensive reading with other characters.

**Note:** Character descriptions are provided at the end for your convenience and reference.

**RONA**

Hello, I’m Rona Lisa Peretti, and I’m pleased to be back for my 9th consecutive year as your host. Unfortunately, our usual word pronouncer, Superintendent Spriggs has fallen ill, so please join me in welcoming back Vice Principal Douglas Patch from Lake Hemingway-Dos Passos Junior High. Vice Principal Panch is returning to us after a five-year hiatus--so thank you Douglas for stepping in on such short notice.

**VP PANCH**

**(Note: The role of Vice Principal Panch is a non-singing role. Actors interested in the part will read most extensively at Callbacks during group reads, as this character interacts extensively with all members of the cast).**

Yes, as you know, if for any reason the winner cannot fulfill his duties as Putnam County Spelling Champ, the Runner Up must step in and assume all spelling responsibilities, so this year our sponsors are also offering a cash prize of twenty-five dollars to the second-place finisher.

**MITCH MAHONEY**

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 just want to beat them up a little, so they can 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.

**CHIP TOLENTINO**

Snack break.

Snack break.

Chocolate chip cookies. Brownies. All one dollar. Anybody?

Can you believe they make me do this? So humiliating.

Screw it. Who wants free candy?

**SCHWARZY (LOGAINE)**

This Bee is as confusing for me as Father’s Day! As the daughter of two gay Dads, I’d like to know who scheduled Father’s Day and Gay Pride Weekend within 7 days of each other? Well, anyway, to celebrate Gay Father’s Pride week, which is what we call it in my family, we went to go see “Cinderella Man”--but it wasn’t exactly what we were expecting.

**BARFEE**

William Morris Barfee studied for Nationals with his new friend Olive Ostrovsky. He came in 42nd. In later years, he grew up to be incredibly handsome and to gain fame and notoriety for his pioneering efforts in the combined scientific fields of psychiatry and podiatry, otherwise known as: *poschietry*.

**LEAF CONEYBEAR**

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.

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

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!

**MARCY**

Marcy Park continued to explore the freedom of not living up to expectations. She later wrote a book called Not Living Up to Expectations. It did not live up to expectations. She is very happy.

**OLIVE**

I’m thinking about does flagellate have one ell or two---and also about how if you take the “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.

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee - Character Breakdown

**Chip Tolentino** An athletic, social, boy scout and champion of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, he returns to defend his title, but he finds puberty hitting at an inopportune moment.

# C4 - B5

**Logainne Schwartzandgrunenierre (Schwartzy)** Logainne is the youngest and most politically aware speller, often making comments about current political figures. She is driven by internal and external pressure, but above all by a desire to win to make her two fathers proud. She is somewhat of a neat freak, speaks with a lisp, and will be back next year.

# A3 - F5

**Leaf Coneybear** The second runner-up in his district, Leaf gets into the competition on a lark and finds everything about the bee incredibly amusing. He is home-schooled and comes from a large family of former hippies. He has severe Attention Deficit Disorder and spells words correctly while in a trance.

# A3 - A5

**William Barfee** A Putnam County Spelling Bee finalist last year, he was eliminated because of an allergic reaction to peanuts and is back for vindication. His famous "Magic Foot" method of spelling has boosted him to spelling glory, even though he only has one working nostril and a touchy, bullying personality. He develops a crush on Olive.

# E4 - B5

**Marcy Park** A recent transfer from Virginia, Marcy placed ninth in last year's nationals. She speaks six languages, is a member of all-American hockey, a championship rugby player, plays Chopin and Mozart on multiple instruments, sleeps only three hours a night, hides in the bathroom cabinet, and is getting very tired of always winning. She is the poster child for the Over-Achieving Asian, and attends a Catholic school called "Our Lady of Intermittent Sorrows." She is also not allowed to cry.

# C4 - E5

**Olive Ostrovsky** A young newcomer to competitive spelling. Her mother is in an ashram in India, and her father is working late, as usual, but he is trying to come sometime during the bee. Having found comfort in its words and vastness, Olive made friends with her dictionary at a very young age, helping her to make it to the competition. She starts enormously shy, and shyly blossoms.

# B3 - F5

**Rona Lisa Peretti** The number-one realtor in Putnam County, a former Putnam County Spelling Bee Champion herself, and the returning moderator. She is a sweet woman who loves children, but she can be very stern when it comes to dealing with Vice Principal Panch and his feelings for her. Her interest in the competition is unflagging and drives it forward.

# B3 - F5

**Douglas Panch** The Vice Principle. Frustrated with his life, he finds the drive of the young spellers alien to him. After five years' absence from the Bee, Panch returns as judge. There was an "incident" at the Twentieth Annual Bee, but he claims to be in "a better place" now, thanks to a high-fiber diet and Jungian analysis. He is infatuated with Rona Lisa Peretti, but she does not return his affections.

**Mitch Mahoney** The Official Comfort Counselor. An ex-convict, Mitch is performing his community service with the Bee, and hands out juice boxes to losing students. He has no idea how to offer comfort, but does find himself wishing he could find a way to make the kids feel better.

# E4 - A5

**Carl Dad** Schwarzy's main trainer, the more intense and competitive of Schwarzy's fathers. Normally played by actor playing Leaf.

# G3 - D5

**Dan Dad** the more laid back and ineffectual of Schwarzy's fathers. Normally played by the actor playing Mitch.

# G3 - D5

**Jesus Christ** Deity invoked by a speller in need. Normally played by the actor playing Chip.

**Leaf's Mom, Dad, And Siblings** All more academically gifted than Leaf, they are even more surprised than he is by his success. Normally played by the spellers and audience volunteers as indicated in the script.

**Olive's Dad** A fantasy version of Olive's dad coming to the bee from work. Normally played by the actor playing Mitch.

# E4 - B5

**Olive's Mom** A fantasy version of Olive's mom at her Ashram in India. Normally played by the actor playing Rona.

D4 - E5