

by Shel Silverstein, 2011

[Search Google for “Fourth Place Shel Silverstein” to read Shel’s version.]



by Jimmy W., Chicago, 2016

Group entrants into same-size sets (by talent if you're able),
Like those who sing or who recite the periodic table.
I wish we could accept them all. (Alas we must be cruel.)
Each set has one who doesn't meet some verbal/written rule.
Initially line rejects up (just put them in a row),
And then fourth place again is where your solving eyes should go.
A message there will indicate (and tell you how to find)
The seven-word-long answer each contestant had in mind.

ABBA	COLOMBIA	FALL GUY	LEMUR	SOU'WESTER
AISLE SEAT	DECADE	GOBI DESERT	LINKIN PARK	SPEED LIMIT 15
BEAR	DEER	HAFNIUM	MATRIX GROUP	SPRING FASHIONS
BOWLER	DEF LEPPARD	HARE	MOO GOO GAI PAN	STOP
CAMBODIA	DO NOT ENTER	HYDROGEN	NARRAGANSETT BEACH	SUMMER FUN
CARBON	DRUNKEN CHICKEN	I LOVE LUCY	OXYGEN	TAM O'SHANTER
CENTURY	ECHO	I'LL EAT MY HAT	PLANAR GRAPH	THE BEATLES
CHEAP KITTY LITTER	EGG FOO YUNG	INDIA	PORK CHOW MEIN	THREE-MINUTE HOURGLASS
CHEF'S HAT	EPOCH	JIFFY	ROOT TWO	UNIFORM
CHILE	EVEN TERM	KILO	SLOW	WINTER WEATHER
CHINA	EYELINERS			

