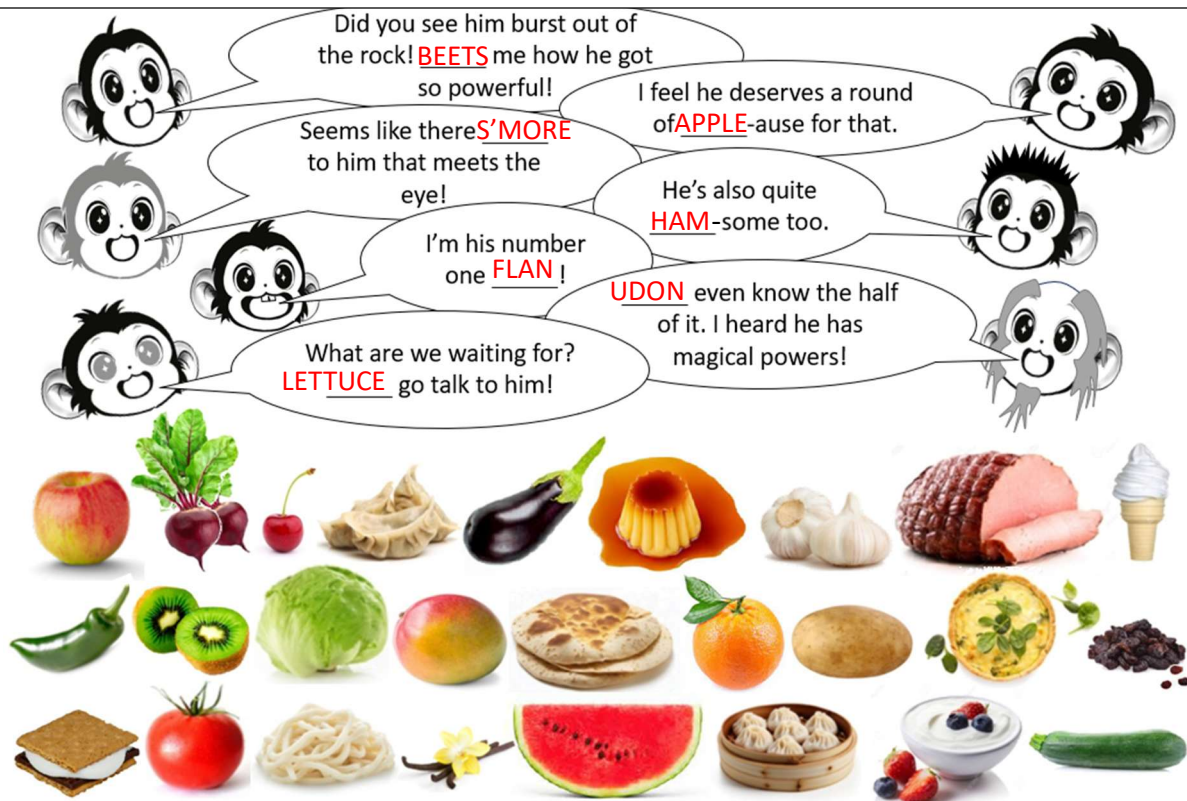


A magic stone sat at the very top of Flower Fruit Mountain, where it marinated in celestial energy for thousands of years. One fateful day, a monkey burst out of the stone! This monkey was *Sun Wukong*, who would go on to become the Monkey King. When he joined the other monkeys on Flower Fruit Mountain, they noticed how unusually powerful he was.

Monkeys often have food on their minds, but today, they're also thinking about *Sun Wukong*. Decode their conversations to figure out how they felt when they **first** saw *Sun Wukong*!



Each blank gets filled in by one of the foods listed alphabetically beneath to create a homophone/near-homophone for a word that would fit in the sentence. Then the first letters of each of these foods is strung together to give the solution: **BASHFUL**

Monkey Illustration by Renju Hu

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# THE CROWNING OF THE MONKEY KING



One day, *Sun Wukong* and his new monkey friends journeyed to the source of a stream where a powerful waterfall thundered down. The monkeys were all very curious about what was behind the waterfall, but none of them dared to venture to the other side. They declared that whoever was brave enough to go into the waterfall and strong enough to make it back out would become their new king.

Help *Sun Wukong* **bridge** the gaps in the rocks so that he can cross the waterfall and claim the title of the Monkey King! **Oddly** enough, to make each bridge, *Sun Wukong* places a single character between two adjacent rocks.

**Each bridge word is made up of the final few letters of one rock and the first few letters of the next rock – with just one unused letter between: TEMPLE – LE (G) END – ENDANGER**

**Stringing all of these unused bridge letters together gives GO UP IN DREAD. But the answer has only six letters.**

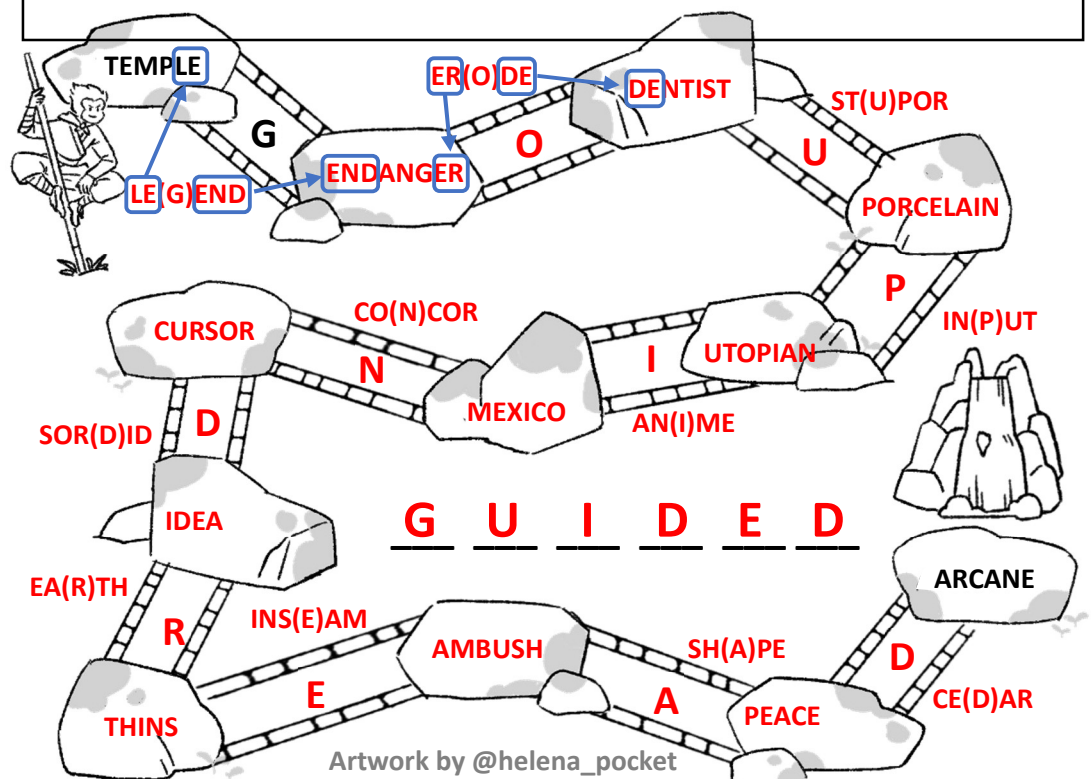
**If you use only the odd bridge letters, you get the final answer: GUIDED**

## Rocks

- Surprise attack  
**AMBUSH**
- Obscure  
**ARCANE**
- PC's pointer  
**CURSOR**
- Giver of fillings  
**DENTIST**
- Put at risk  
**ENDANGER**
- I haven't the foggiest \_\_\_\_  
**IDEA**
- Tequila's country of origin  
**MEXICO**
- It's often symbolized by a dove  
**PEACE**
- Fine white ceramic  
**PORCELAIN**
- Place of worship  
**TEMPLE**
- Dilutes paint  
**THINS**
- Impossibly perfect  
**UTOPIAN**

## Bridges

- "Spirited Away" or "CardCaptor Sakura" TV artform originating in Japan  
**ANIME**
- Aromatic wood often used for chests  
**CEDAR**
- Be in agreement, see eye-to-eye  
**CONCUR**
- A planet that's a pale blue dot  
**EARTH**
- Slowly wear away  
**ERODE**
- Enter data into a computer  
**INPUT**
- Crotch to cuff  
**INSEAM**
- Key for a map  
**LEGEND**
- A circle or a square, e.g.  
**SHAPE**
- Morally wrong or shocking  
**SORDID**
- Mental daze, often used to describe a drunken state  
**STUPOR**



Artwork by @helena\_pocket

## 2. A SUITABLE WEAPON



For many years, Sun Wukong and his friends lived peacefully on Flower Fruit Mountain. One day, tired of his everyday life, Sun Wukong found a powerful sage who taught him how to use magic. Once he had gained many new powers, he decided he also needed a weapon. Brash and arrogant, he traveled to the palace of the Eastern Dragon King and demanded the Dragon King's finest arms and armor.

To make a **long** story **short**, *Sun Wukong* finally decided on the *Ruyi Jingu Bang*, an enormous pillar that controls the ebb and flow of the tides. *Sun Wukong* used his magic to shrink the pillar down. It **got progressively smaller** until it was the size of a needle, making it easier to carry around.

Help *Sun Wukong* shrink some more objects to discover a magical attribute he gained while studying with the sage!

Each word answer below is associated with a dot (short) or a dash (long). These words can then be grouped by each category and ordered by *decreasing size* ("got progressively smaller"). For example: boxing weight classes = MIDDLE>LIGHT>FEATHER) to give Morse code letters. Solution: **UNDYING**

Their country's football team came up just one goal **short** of winning the last World CUP = •

One of Snow White's seven **short** companions: DWARF = •

To describe people who get **along**, one might say: birds of a FEATHER = —

FOOT = —-longs are a classic Subway offering

James and the GIANT = • Peach is a **short** children's book

**Long**time pop star Ariana GRANDE = —

What many a prince **longs** to become one day KING = —

If dating someone is a **long** shot, they're probably out of your LEAGUE = —

A LIGHT = • year is a scientist's **short** way of saying  $3.0 \times 10^8$  meters

Frodo's journey through MIDDLE = • Earth did not take any **short**cuts

Measurement that's **shorter** on land than at sea MILE = •

Blood is pumped **along** its way at a rate measured in beats per MINUTE = —

**Long**-running Puzzled event that you are participating in PINT = —

Title for any of Henry VIII's wives, though many had **short** tenures QUEEN = •

Place for those that fall just **short** of winning SECOND = •

Opposite of **short** TALL = •

The distance between Minneapolis and St. Paul is so **short**, they are often called the TWIN = • Cities

Twenty, in a country shaped like a **long** boot VENTI = —

Place to host a sale of one's be**long**ings YARD = —



MIDDLE LIGHT FEATHER  
= • • — = U



MINUTE SECOND  
= — • = N



KING QUEEN TWIN  
= — • • = D



LEAGUE MILE YARD FOOT  
= — • — — = Y



GIANT DWARF  
= • • • = I



PINT CUP  
= — • = N



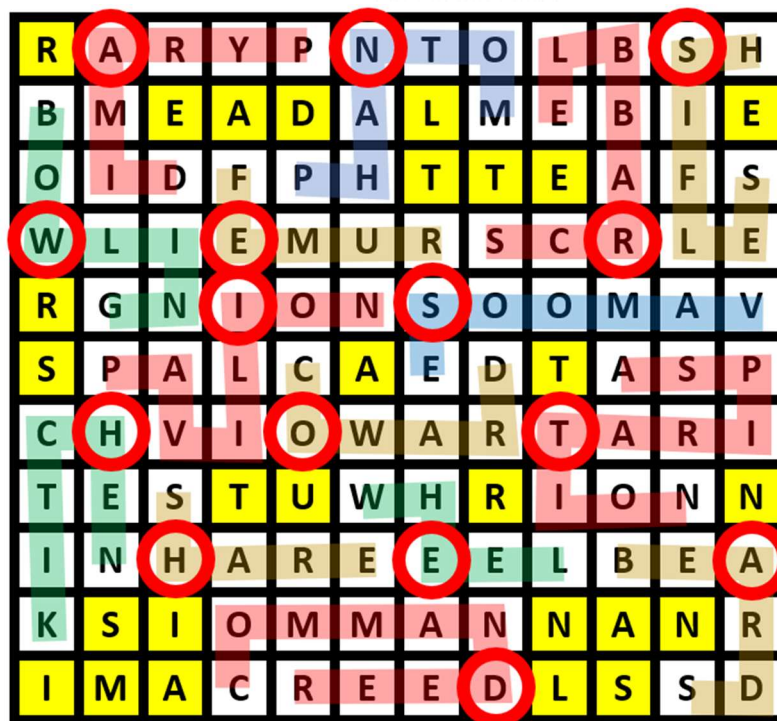
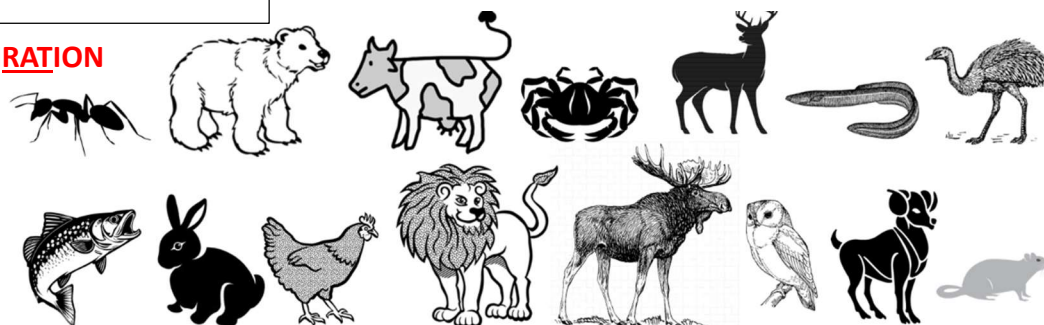
VENTI GRANDE TALL  
= — — • = G

### 3. MAGICAL TRANSFORMATIONS



The words below all contain within them the animals shown at right. These words are then found in bent-up lines in the word search below. The unused letters highlighted in yellow spell out: **READ LETTERS AT TURNS IN ANIMALS**. These letters are circled in red and spell out: **ANSWER IS HOTHEAD**.

1. Ambitious desire, or removal of fluid **ASPIRATION**
2. Goatees, e.g. **BEARDS**
3. Alley game **BOWLING**
4. To take by force **COMMANDEER**
5. Fearful sort **COWARD**
6. Thighbone **FEMUR**
7. Where meals are prepared **KITCHEN**
8. Exhibition building at the World's Fair **PAVILION**
9. Spooky "Music of the Night" figure **PHANTOM**
10. Where a pharaoh is buried **PYRAMID**
11. Classic board game with letter tiles **SCRABBLE**
12. Not willing to share **SELFISH**
13. Social media action **SHARE**
14. Depart quickly **VAMOOSE**
15. Circular object that needs no reinventing **WHEEL**





## 4. HAVOC IN HEAVEN



*Sun Wukong's* arrogance grew more and more, until one day, he demanded to be included in the heavenly court. The Jade Emperor agreed, appeasing him with an empty title – “Guardian of the Immortal Peach Orchard”.

One day, a group of celestial maidens went to the orchard to collect peaches for an Imperial banquet. Furious that he had not been invited, *Sun Wukong* used his magic powers to put them to sleep. On top of that, as revenge, he ate every single peach in the orchard!

The peaches in the heavenly orchard are special, conferring immortality on whomever eats them. There are **three types**, and they take either 3,000, 6,000, or 9,000 years to bloom. Figure out what peaches are in each of the three different groves of the orchard to find out which soldiers went after *Sun Wukong*!

6	6	6	18	111 = M
3	3	6	12	001 = A
9	3	3	15	200 = R
18		15	12	

9	3	6	18	201 = S
3	9	9	21	022 = H
3	3	6	12	001 = A
15		21		

6	6	3	15	110 = L
9	3	6		201 = S
3	3	3	9	000 = -
18		12		

The three grids at left are filled in 3's, 6's and 9's to represent the thousands of years it took the peach trees to bloom.

Now, note the number of leaves on the peaches (3000=0, 6000=1, 9000=2).

The lines in the grids spell out the solution from top to bottom in ternary code: **MARSHALS**



3,000-year peach: 13 total



6,000-year peach: 9 total



9,000-year peach: 5 total

The numbers on the outside of each grove denote the total thousands of years that it took for the peaches in that row/column/diagonal to bloom.



Artwork by Tyler Yang



## THE CHALLENGE



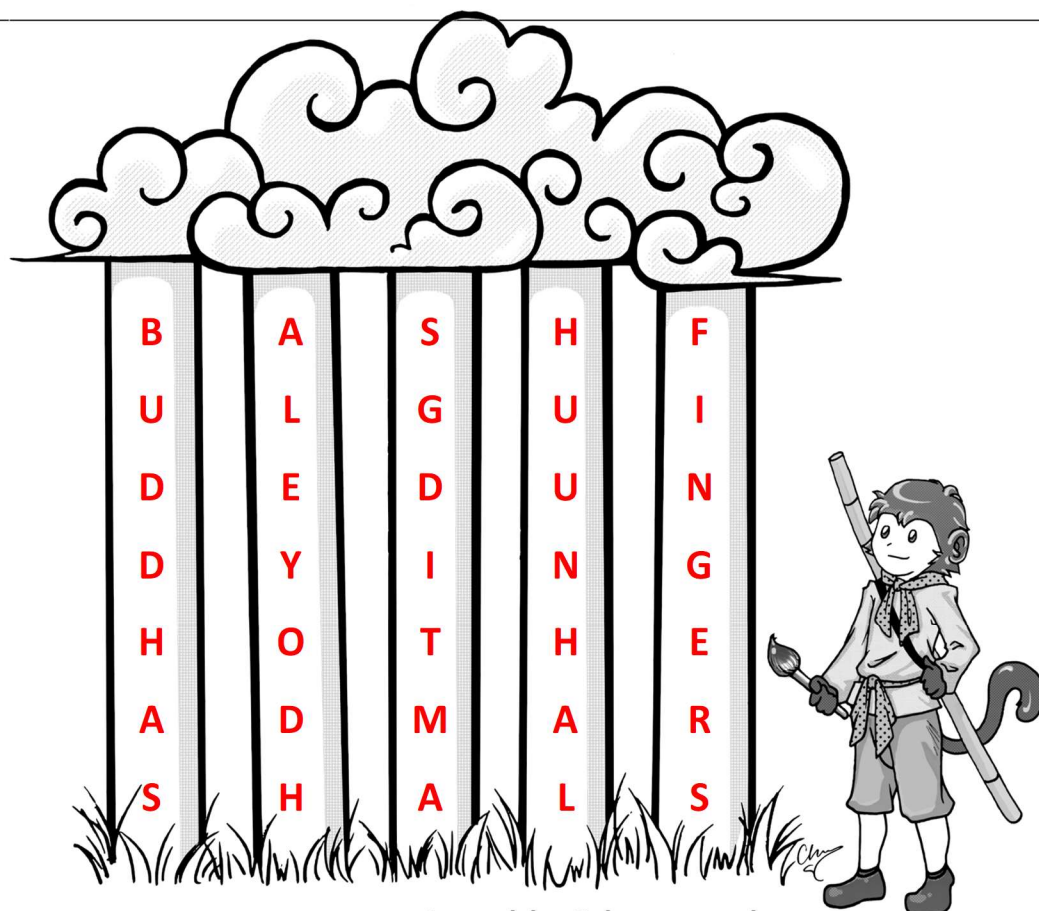
After *Sun Wukong* ruined the celestial banquet, the emperor sent many soldiers to apprehend him. However, they were all soundly defeated. Tired of *Sun Wukong*'s shenanigans, the Jade Emperor decided to appeal to a higher power for help – the Buddha.

When the Buddha arrived, he picked up *Sun Wukong* with one enormous hand and issued a challenge: if *Sun Wukong* could escape his palm, then he could have the Jade Emperor's position. If not, he would face imprisonment.

*Sun Wukong* laughed uproariously. Accepting the challenge, he bolted, traversing millions of miles in an instant. He quickly reached the end of the universe, where he saw some giant pillars.

**First**, to prove that he had made it to the edge of world, he scribbled **letter by letter** descriptions of all his past exploits, from his birth out of the magic stone to his exploits in the immortal peach orchard. When he was finally done, he took one **last** glance at the pillars.

The five solutions from the location plus the four main set puzzles (BASHFUL, GUIDED, UNDYING, HOTHEAD, MARSHALS) are written onto the columns one letter at a time, the solution appear on the first and last columns: **BUDDHAS FINGERS**



Artwork by @chartoonworks



# DOUBLE TROUBLE



Sun Wukong has many supernatural abilities. One interesting skill is that he can pluck out hair from his body and transform it into clones of himself! However, Sun Wukong's clones are as mischievous as he is, and today, some of them seem to be causing trouble in the garden of a minor deity.

Each number corresponds to the number of clones that Sun Wukong saw directly next to one another (i.e. In the first row, he saw 3 monkeys next to each other. After at least 1 space, he saw 3 more monkeys next to each other. And after at least 1 space, he saw a single monkey by itself.)

Help Sun Wukong **look** for his clones to find a phrase that he said to them!

This is a nonogram puzzle, and the solution is shown below. The word "look," along with the 2x3 grids indicate that braille is the code being used here. For example, the first letter (highlighted below) is N.

Solution: **NO MORE MONKEY BUSINESS**

		1				1			
1	2	2		1		2		4	
2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
1	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	2	1
1	1	1	5	1	1	2	2	2	1

				3	3	1										
				1	1	3	N		O		M		O		R	
		1	1	1	1	1										
				1	3	3										
				1	1	1	E		M		O		N		K	
			1	1	1	1										
			1	3	1	1										
				1	2	1	E		Y		B		U			S
					2	3										
				4	1	1										
			1	1	2	1		I		N		E		S		S
				1	1	1										