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Darlings

Quiz

The boy next to me's family had donated the building in which we sweated and in which he copied my quiz.

I would have to get everything correct, because if the wrong answers were shared, one of us would get in trouble, presumably not the one immune to trouble. Good thing the acid hadn't worn off.

Watson, Dr.

Once you know something, it seems elementary.

Elbow grease

I'll run to the hardware store and pick some up. (Note: there's no joke like the old jokes.)

Revolutionary

Holier than Mao.

Trouble

"Trouble is the next best thing to enjoyment."

—Hawthorne, in a letter to Longfellow

You

Who I would rather be if only because you don't have to read this.

Uncle

Because you can give presents and go to ball games and if one or more of the darlings are misbehaving, you can say uncle and go to your own home.

Idea

Williams wanted no ideas but in things. Today I hope for no ideas at all.

Of course

Phrase applied almost exclusively to what is not a matter of course and probably what is not.

Pizza

We are what we (have delivered to) eat: the Human Gino's Project.

Ambrosia

(also *amrita*) Nutella of the gods.

Snooze

There was a snooze button on my alarm clock to be pressed when the alarm (or radio) woke me too soon, though usually I was already awake. I need a button on my belly or my brain that would make me snooze.

Dictionary

But how can I look up the word if I don't know how to spell it? Besides the type is too small to read without my glasses.

Fringe

I used to think this referred to the *ne plus ultra*, whatever that means, of thought or the execution of that thought, but now it seems to mean the benefits that our employers are keen to stop providing us. Not even atop a surrey.

Glasses

Not so easy to find if you can't see without them.

Hell

"There are moments when, even to the sober eye of Reason, the world of our sad Humanity may assume the semblance of Hell..."

—Edgar Allen Poe, "The Premature Burial"

Jonathan

Elder siblings are rather like an offensive line in football: they block while we run. Canaries/coal mines, artists/ societies. If your parents messed them up, that was just practice. Older/wiser, they now have a better idea how to raise a kid.

Khipu

Tablet computer of Tawantinsuyu, the Inka Empire.

Locus amoenus

In the land of milk and honey, we develop lactose intolerance and an allergy to the pollen found in the sweet goo.

Zephyr

The winds blow from west to east. So people from the East used to call us up in the Midwest to find what weather to expect.

Xoxo

Hugs and kisses, *abbr.*, a lazy abbreviation, lazy hugs and kisses but better than male hugs (male shrugs) and air kisses (near misses). We hope for a draw as so often in tic-tac-toe.

Camping

You strap the fridge to your back. I'll carry the toilet bowl.

Vanity

Vanity, thy name is mine, or at least I'm pretty sure that's what everybody thinks. Like that Carly Simon song. I'm so vain. I'm pretty sure that song is about me.

Bubble

The sky is the credit limit.

New Jersey

For proximity to New York City and Philadelphia, and to their TV signals, we are divided into North Jersey and South Jersey, as though at the least provocation a civil war might break out.

Murdered Darlings

In the lectures (1914) that became the book *On the Art of Writing* (1916), Arthur Quiller-Couch exhorted his students, in italics, *Murder your darlings*. He was referring to "extraneous Ornament" in writing, as opposed to

the special pleading for undeserved meaning implicit in ostentatious capitalization and italicization. Since then writers have often been instructed to remove those darlings from their work, to murder them, and they often in turn pass that instruction on to other writers. But where would they put the darlings? What would they do with the dead bodies? Perhaps I misunderstood. Maybe the writers are to save the little darlings in some earthly mechanism and to rub out everything else.