

Dear Ms. Grubin,

Homer, the Excelsior Branch's mascot, has again decided to enter the S.P.C.A. Pet Personnel Contest. It was his opinion that since you received an essay last year, this year you might prefer an interview.

Interviewer: Well Homer, it's time for the S.P.C.A. Pet Personnel Contest. Are you going to enter again?

Homer: Of course. I look at it as a great opportunity; this year I'm leaner, eager and ready!

Interviewer: But isn't it hard to enter again, since last year you were a semi-finalist and didn't win? What about your pride? What if you lose?

Homer: Look, I'm over 55 years old. I've had a lot of time to think. I'm not named Homer for nothing. I've got my own philosophy. I figure that I'm a lot like John Wayne. He was a personality to depend on, calm, steadfast but once riled he could really move. We've got the same swagger, the same strong jaw, and he was in True Grit just once and won an award. I'm in it every day. It took him a while to get his Oscar, but meanwhile look at his fans! They knew he was special.

Interviewer: Are you trying to tell me you have as many fans as John Wayne? Come on Homer, that's hard to believe.

Homer: Well, perhaps not as many, but I've got fans. You should catch my act at pre-school storytime - it's spell-binding. And at least one librarian drops by every day just to see how I am. I may not have fans in the millions but you've got to admit I've got ones of quality.

Interviewer: Have you done any sort of special training or preparation for the contest? How does a turtle psyche himself up?

Homer: I've just finished a long winter fast so I'm lean and in good physical shape. I've also done a lot of sleep therapy - all winter is a long nap. Being a what I am, working in a literary environment, it's hard for my name-sake's philosophy or the Tortoise and the Hare syndrome not to sink in. I've slept on that one long enough. I'm all for the power of positive thinking. I owe it to the librarians to be a good example. Do you have any idea how many tough questions they are asked to research

Dear Mr. Graham: daily? They try to answer everyone, and if they have their morale boosted by my cheerful face or wag of tail, then they might try a little harder to find that important book. That book could really make a difference to someone's life.

Interviewer: Do you like your job at the library? Do you feel a potential for growth?

Homer: I have a great deal of satisfaction working here. I used to be pretty shy, but look how far out of my shell I've come just during this interview. And while the job doesn't pay much, look at the perks - fresh snails! fruit to eat, my own patio, and a swimming pool, and all supplied for free. What more could a turtle ask, except maybe a bit of the fast life that entering the Pet Personnel Contest brings.

Interviewer: I've heard a lot of things to think. I'm not named Homer for nothing. I've got my own philosophy. I figure that I'm a lot like John Wayne. He was a personality to depend on, calm, steadfast but once riled he could really move. We've got the same swagger, the same strong jaw, and he was in True Grit just once and won an award. I'm in it every day. I took him a while to get his Oscar, but meanwhile look at his fans! They knew he was special.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Seed

Interviewer: Are you trying to say you have as many fans as John Wayne? Come on, it's hard to be John.

Elaine Seed
Children's Librarian
Excelsior Branch Library

Homer: Well, perhaps. You should catch my act at pre-school storytime - it's spell-binding. And at least one librarian drops his pencil just to see how I act. I may not have fans in the library but you've got to admit I've got ones of quality.

Interviewer: Have you done any sort of special preparation for the contest? How does a turtle prepare himself up?

Homer: I've just finished a long winter of lean and in good physical shape. I've also done a lot of sleep therapy - all winter is a long nap. Being a what I am, working in a library environment, it's hard for my sake's philosophy or the fact that I'm the Bare syndrome not to sink in. I've slept on that one long enough. I'm all for the power of repetition thinking. I see it as the librarians to be a good example. Do you have any idea how many tough questions they are asked to remember?