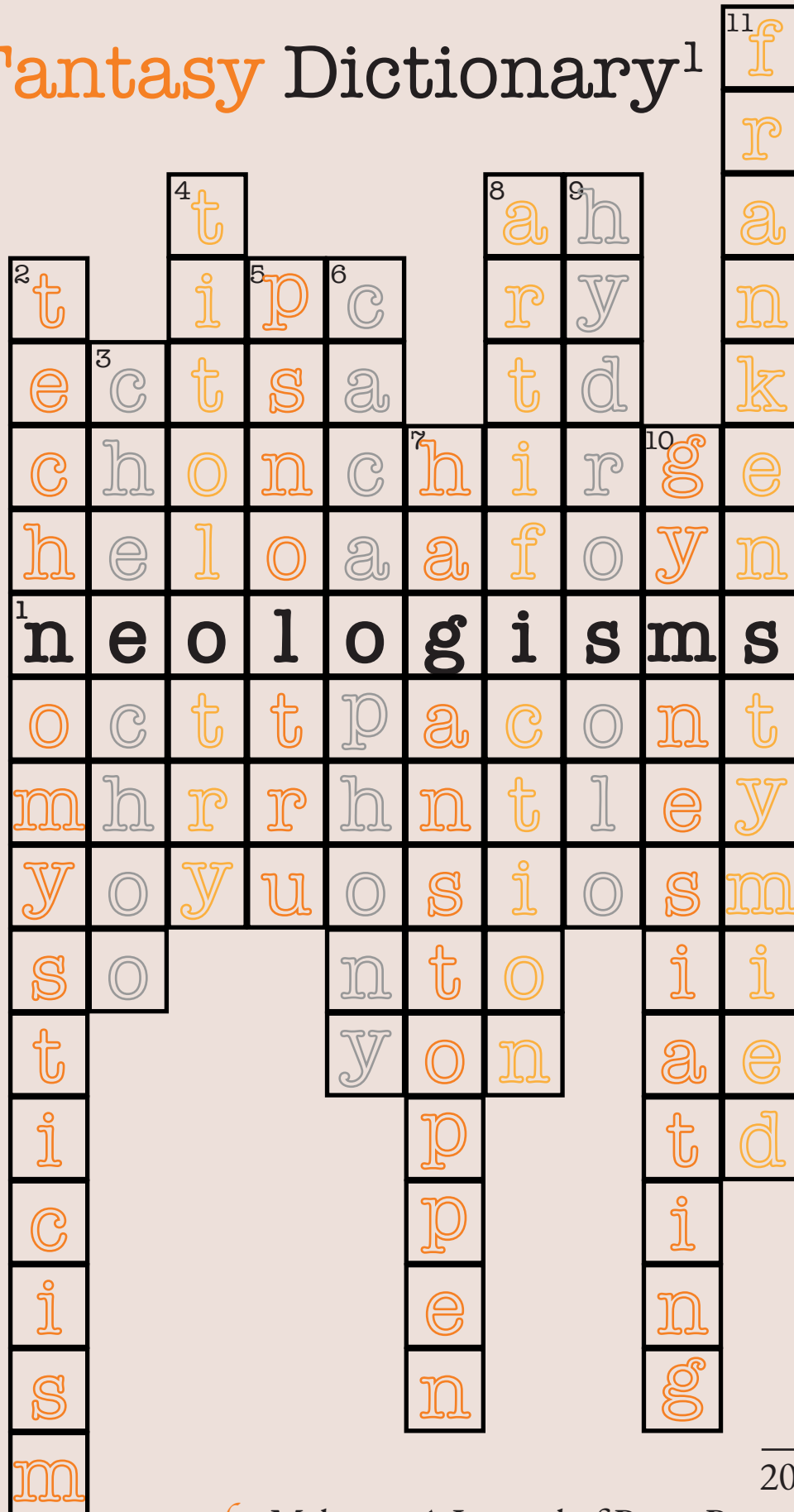


The Fantasy Dictionary¹



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by Melange: A Journal of Prose Poetry and the Arts
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There are some feelings that defy words.

There are some thoughts and phenomena that we all know but cannot describe succinctly.

We have invited creative souls worldwide
to create neologisms, or new words,
to express the inexpressible.

The words in this Special Issue
comprise entries for our first Fantasy Dictionary Contest,
held online and at in person at Dbar,
where Princeton graduate students formed teams
to invent words together.

Some words are serious, others silly, many useful,
and all thought-provoking.
Some would be handy in everyday life,
and some accentuate special moments.

We are grateful
to have received these words,
and hope you enjoy them.

You are welcome to use these words
in your own creative writing
by elaborating on the prompts at the end of each entry.

Sylvia Onorato
Editor-in-Chief
2024-2025

Cheechoo

noun.

Jazlyn Cartaya

Haiku Definition:

This animal here,
so cute, I can't help but feel:
immense affection.

Pronunciation:

/'tʃi:tʃu:/

(In simpler terms, “ch” as in “**ch**ore”, “ee” as in “**s**peed,” and “oo” as in “**ch**ew.”)

Examples of Use:

- “My bird is a real cheechoo.”
- “I can't believe I'm seeing so many cheechoos!”

Related Forms:

Chee (noun / exclamation)

- “That's a chee, if I ever did see one.”
- “Chee!”

Adjectival Form: Cheeest

/tʃiːˈɛst/

(“chee-EST,” rhymes with “greatest”)

- “She is the cheeest of the cheechoos.”

Verbal Form: Cheeing

/ˈtʃiːɪŋ/

(“chee-ING,” rhymes with “being”)

- **A:** “What’s that puppy doing?”
- **B:** “Cheeing—he’s just being a little chee.”

Usage Note:

Informal and playful, typically used among close friends or family.

Etymology:

Coined in 2016 after encountering unbearably cute animals one too many times and not having a precise word to describe the exact feeling that came from seeing them.

Looking up with wide eyes, _____

To Be Frankenstymied

verb.

when a project takes on a life of its own
with consequences beyond the initial
intended scope
resulting in a bewildering impasse
or dead end
for its creator

Erin Scothorn

This was never supposed to happen. But
somehow, _____

Fréjàvu

noun. The feeling following an olfactory moment of having experienced the same fragrance, aroma, or smell before. Often accompanied by a flashback to another time you experienced that same scent; derived from the Latin word “fragrare” or “smell sweet”, and the French phrase “déjà vu” meaning “already seen.”

Patricia A. Dever

If memory could be bottled like perfume,
this one would be called... _____

Glarification

noun. When you have to explain something to someone, but you're resentful and find the person contemptuous. (Pronunciation: rhymes with "clarification")

E.g., I know you're more of an expert than me, but it was really rude to give me all that glarification!

Team: Historiocracy

Anonymous

After that epic explosion, _____

Hydro solo

noun

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hy•dro•so•lo

hī•drō•sō•lō

: a song you sing in the shower

“Hydro” originates from the Greek *hýdōr*, meaning water

Meanwhile, “solo” is Italian, but the term comes from the Latin *sōlum*, meaning alone

Christina Onorato



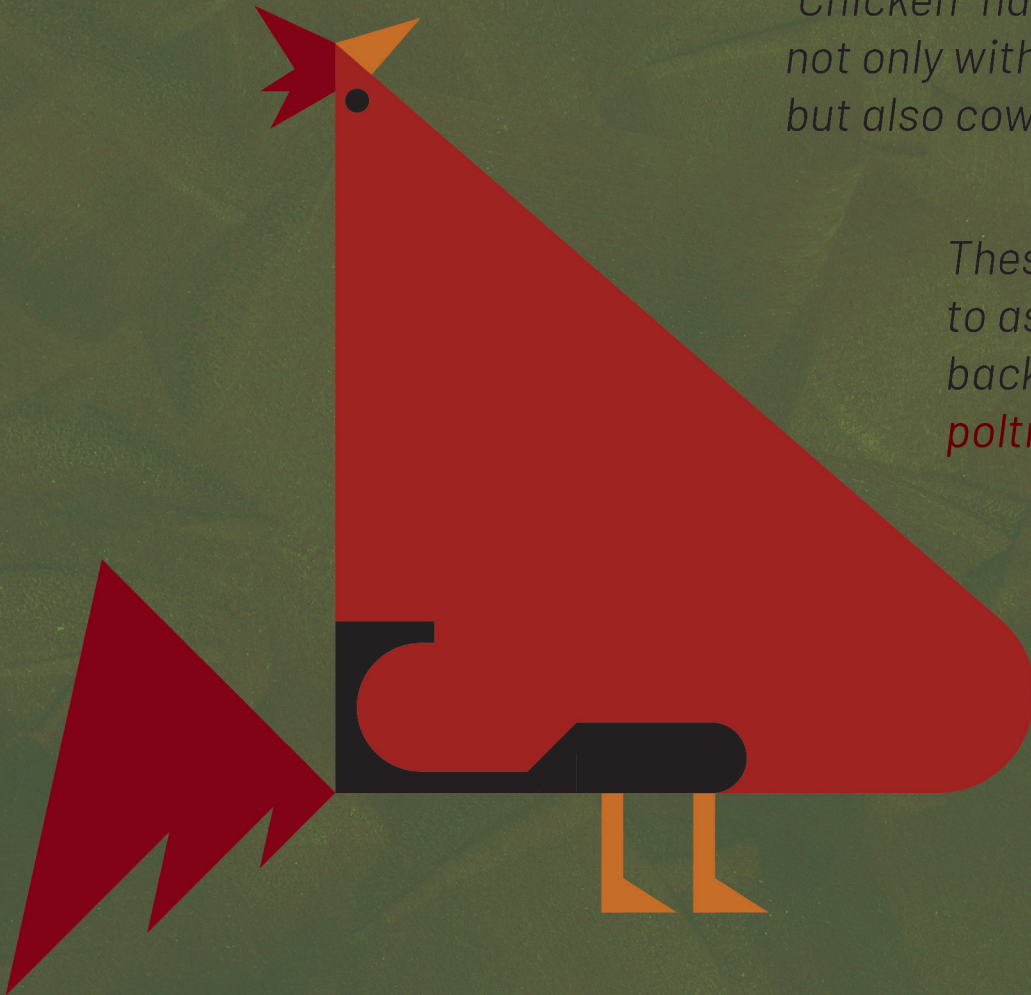
PSNOLTRU

noun

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psnol•tru snəl•trü

: a cowardly sneeze : a phenomenon when you almost sneeze, but before you can, the urge passes



“Chicken” has long been associated not only with the farm animal, but also cowardice

These birds can be referred to as “poultry” which traces back to the Old Italian term *poltrone*, meaning “coward”

Many English words associated with the nose start with **sn-** but long ago these words were originally pronounced **pn-** a common sound for words about breath – this can still be seen today in terms like pneumonia

In this case, the “**p**” is also a reference to the Greek root *pseudo*, which means fake, perfect for a “fake sneeze”

Christina Onorato

NYCTBISS

noun

nyct•biss nik•tə•bihss

: midnight snack, or “night bite”

“Nyct” is derived from the Greek nykt-, nykti-, nykto-, or nyx meaning **night**



“Biss” is the German word for **bite**

Christina Onorato

Meet the Contributors

The Balkans is a group of anonymous contributors.

Historiocracy is a group of anonymous contributors.

Jazlyn Cartaya is a fourth-year PhD student studying philosophy at Princeton University. Her interests are broad, with a particular focus on the philosophy of language and aesthetics, both in contemporary and historical spheres. She has also loved creative writing since childhood and enjoys bringing together her philosophical and literary interests.

Patricia A. Dever received her BA from the University of Notre Dame. She enjoys myriad artistic activities – such as creating neologisms!

Quinn Diamond is a junior on the rowing team. His word won a mini version of the Fantasy Dictionary Contest among undergraduates held outside Dbar at Princeton.

Christina Onorato is a visual communication designer who earned her BFA from the University of Notre Dame. In addition to creative projects, she enjoys reading and baking.

Erin Scothorn is an interdisciplinary writer/artist/performer who works in a variety of different media, including painting, prosthetics, sculpting, and interactive theatre. Her work is shaped by her ongoing desire to travel and learn by connecting with others around the world through shared stories and experiences. Even after a BA in English, Medieval Studies, and History, she is still fascinated by how people and places change (or not) over time.

Jasmine Parsons (Team Sports) is a PhD student in theoretical high-energy astrophysics at Princeton University, originally from Montréal, Québec.

Joelle-Marie Begin (Team Sports) is a PhD in the Physics Department at Princeton working on dark matter.

Masthead

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