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WHY? WELL, WHY NOT?

By Jesse Goldberg/puzzles edited by Will Shortz

Answers on Page 19

Across

- 1 Condiment at a pho shop
- 9 Got too scared, with "out"
- 15 Shelve
- 20 Big picture
- 21 Author/journalist Welteroth
- Holmes Myster-22 "The ies" (young-adult detective series)
- 23 Nationwide competitor
- 24 Places where some belts are tightened?
- 26 Longtime surname on lateniaht TV
- 27 Rooibos by another name
- 28 Simpson imp
- 29 Stephen Crane's "The Red Badge of Courage," e.g.?
- 32 Gave the scoop
- 35 Its presence on Mars offers a clue to life
- 38 Growler's contents
- 39 Actress Lena
- 40 Can
- 41 Medical gloves and N95 masks, for short
- 42 Pen
- 44 Andy Dufresne in "The Shawshank Redemption," e.g.
- 48 Pear-shaped instrument
- 49 Buy a lot of, with "on"
- 51 Lawyer with absurdly exaggerated humor?
- 54 Where Camus's "The Plague" is set
- 56 Circuit-board components
- 57 Count, e.g.
- 58 Sleep phase?
- 60 Coconut-covered cookie
- 63 It might get the weed out
- 64 Flagship vehicle line for Mercedes-Benz
- 65 Encourage
- 67 Dallas-to-Austin dir.
- 70 Test, as a new mattress
- 71 Harvesting machine that

- needs cleaning?
- 73 Didn't just sit there
- 76 Vouch for, with "to"
- 79 Mythical weaver
- 80 Doctor's description of the birth of triplet sons?
- 84 "Well, maybe"
- 85 Connect, as two devices
- 86 Rhetoric
- 87 Relax
- 89 No longer active: Abbr.
- 90 Golf ball's path
- 91 City north of Des Moines
- 92 Slangy turndown
- 93 Cinco plus uno
- 94 They might get all over the floor
- 96 Battle between Tinker Bell and Princess Ozma?
- 102 Cream
- 103 "Ready?"
- 104 Some Guinness records
- 108 Census-taking of a Midwest capital?
- 111 Begin
- 113 Bel (Italian cheese)
- 114 Charm
- 115 Become aware of... or a homophonic description of four letter shifts in this puzzle's grid
- 116 Partners of hinds
- 117 Reaches
- 118 Comes clean

Down

- 1 Proceeded down a lane, maybe
- 2 Tick off
- 3 Without much thought
- 4 Excise surgically
- 5 Household robot from Amazon
- 6 Abyss
- 7 Like some towels and topics
- 8 Put away
- 9 Big name in grills

- la Cité, home of Notre-Dame
- 11 Smallest country in the E.U., by area
- 12 Stacked
- 13 Musical artist known as the Queen of New Age
- 14 Interior secretary Haaland
- 15 Hold in custody
- 16 ____ nous
- 17 Server error
- 18 The Liberty Tree, e.g.
- 19 Some free housing recipients, for short
- 25 Longtime surname on latenight TV
- 27 Fwy. or expy.
- 30 Clutch, e.g.
- 31 Name hidden in "global economy"
- 32 Couleur de l'océan
- 33 Rhapsodize over
- 34 Caterpillar alternative
- 35 Disruption for a poolside sunbather
- 36 God associated with the moon
- 37 American
- 39 Marsupial that goes into shock when frightened
- 42 Kind of parking
- 43 Each
- 44 Arab leaders
- 45"I spilled remover on my dog. Now he's gone": Steven Wright
- 46 Dancer Charisse of "Singin' in the Rain"
- 47 Wizard
- 48 Sci-fi daughter of Padmé
- 50 D as in D.C.? Abbr.
- 52 Some prosecutors, for short
- 53 Primeval
- 55 First name in folk
- 59 Some wide-brimmed hats
- 61 Killer of the Night King on

- ___ Day, early collaborator
 - with Prince 65 "r u 4 real?"
 - 66 Serving with a meze platter
 - 67 It's a ball
 - 68 Japanese honorific
 - 69 Pries (from)
 - 70 Icky look
 - 71 Boots, helmets, rope, etc.
 - 72 Prefix with puncture
 - 73 For face value
 - 74 One-named entertainer from Spain
 - 75 Hand-held device used by Mr. Spock

- 78 General name for a dish?
- 81 Shade of red
- 82 Ticks off
- 83 Like Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts
- 88 Fish in a poke bowl
- 91 Unfairly takes advantage of, as a policy
- 92 WaPo alternative
- 93 Square figure?
- 95 Like a tasty cake
- 96 Ice-cream treat
- 97 They might hold on to their
- 98 "Failure an option"

caps, for short

- 99 Back in style
- 100 You can see right through it
- 101 Beginning of a toast
- 103 What concealer might conceal
- 105 Soaks (up)
- 106 Co-author of 2016's "The Book of Joy," along with the Dalai Lama
- 107 Break... or brake
- 108 Inits. on the road
- 109 Inits. on the road
- 110 Darkroom item, in brief 111 Personal-ad abbr.
- 112 No-win situation



