

PLAYING BALL - HERE WE ARE (with Wandering in the Jungle) / LATEX (with Visiting the Underworld)

Untangled clues are shown below with an explanation of the gimmick and the resulting letter string.

The first and last letters of each string (hinted at by “extremely, extremely”) provide the message LETTERS AFTER BALLS IN THE CRYPTIC CLUES. Letters coming after every O in the Wandering in the Jungle clues spell SOLUTION IS HERE WE ARE.

The letter strings form a transdeletion list in which a letter can be “bounced” from each string allowing the rest to be anagrammed into a word preceding “ball.” The bounced letters spell ABODES BOTTOM RIGHT, which indicates where to find an answer in the Houses of the Underworld puzzle.

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| ARTHUR MILLER'S TRAGIC SALESMAN WILLY | LOMAN | append E | LOMANE | A + MELON |
| UNDERGROUND PLANT LIKE POTATOES AND YAMS | TUBER | double 3rd, append 1st | TUBBERT | B + BUTTER |
| ACCOUNT FOR MORTGAGE MONEY HELD BY A THIRD PARTY | ESCROW | 4th to end / antepen to end | ESCOWR | O + SCREW |
| VIDEO GAM EPRINCESS RESCUED BY LINK | ZELDA | prepend S; double second | SZEELDA | D + SLEAZE |
| A GIANT MEAL REPAST OR BANQUET | FEAST | A → O | FEOST | E + SOFT |
| WORD MEANING REMAINER AND RELAX | REST | 1st to end, 3rd x 4 | ESSSSTR | S + STRESS |
| EMULATE HANS BRINKER AND TONYA HARDING | SKATE | 3rd to end, prepend next doubled | BBSKTEA | B + BASKET |
| SKINNY SWEETHEART BELOVED BY POPEYE THE SAILOR | OLIVE OYL | 1st/2nd flip; delete 3rd | LOVEOYL | O + VOLLEY |
| SENSE THAT INVOLVES USING THE NOSE | SMELL | last letter -> note in sequence | SMELTI | T + SLIME |
| QUIBBLES OR LOUSE EGGS | SNIT | prepend rev. card in sequence | NITSNET | T + TENNIS |
| MORE WARM SEXY OR STOLEN PERHAPS | HOTTER | append penult | HOTTERE | O + TETHER |
| MARIA'S FAVORITE THINGS INCLUDE BRIGHT WHAT KETTLES | COPPER | penult -> trigram pre antepenult | COPPMNOR | M + POPCORN |
| THIS ADJECTIVE DESCRIBES LITTLE LIARS AND BOY FLOYD | PRETTY | reverse; delete penultimate | YTERP | R + TYPE |
| WALL STREET DEVICE; ALSO ONES HEART SLANGILY | TICKER | append 3rd & 2nd | TICKERCI | I + CRICKET |
| MAKES IRON PRODUCTS OR FAKE PAINTINGS | FORGES | first retreats 3, is appended | CORGESC | G + SOCCER |
| SILLY SIDEKICK OF GASTON IN BEAUTY AND THE BEAST | LEFOU | shift 2nd 3 places | LHFOU | H + FOUL |
| DRAWS DESIGNS WITH ACID ON METAL | ETCHES | doublefirst | EETCHES | T + CHEESE |