

TAKE ME HOME, PALINDROME.

An attempt by a bewildered aged student to meet an unreasonable request by “Words” expert, Madam Street for a brand-new palindrome, any length, but must be original! Impossible, Madam. Quite impossible!

by Harry Dunn

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You have asked us, *Madam Lash*,
For palindromes brand new,
And well you know how difficult
This will be for us to do.
For every worthwhile palindrome -
Whether English, French or Greek
Was invented long ago, and is probably recited -
Even as we speak.

I've consulted everyone I know,
Including *Mum* and *Dad*,
Even *Pop* and poor old *Nan*,
For anything they might recall and have to add;
I've spoken to my brothers, *Bob* and *Viv*
And sisters *Eve* and *Lil* and *Anna*,
The wealthy rellies and the needy,
I've consulted Doctor Google
And my old friend – Wikipeedy.

I came up with '*tit for tat*,'
An original I thought,
Until I read it back;
Then I thought of products kept in pantries and on tap,
Stuff like *Omo*, *Xomox*, *Ovo*, *Oxo*, *Pop* and *Pip*,
And *Lil* and *Poop* and *Pup* and other palindromic *pap*;
Warblers like the *Mamas*, *Pips* and *Papas*,
And *Abba* – still *pop*, but preferable to *Rap*
So I'm falling back on golden oldies,
Like *redder* and *refer*, and *noon* and *tot* and *civic*,
To fill the gaping gap.

Words like *level* and *reviver*,
Racecar, *Madam*, and *kayak*.

But how to form a sentence, a phrase or little verse
Using words that you can read from right to left
And still, more or less make sense

When you read them in reverse:
Well, now I'm giving up and going home,
And as I exit your front door
I trip up and loudly curse;
Was it a cat I saw
I promise that I shall *step on no pets*
On my way out to the motor;
I know that car will start and run, because -
A Toyota's a Toyota!

And how about this final little teaser
When I inform you, just in case you'd like to know
That "*as I pee, sir, I see Pisa,*
So, please *emit no evil – live on time,*
Don't waste it trying to invent
A brand new palindrome or palindryme"
- So said Julius Caesar,
When he returned to ancient Rome,
After he had peed,
(A most unsanitary *deed*)
Then all his legions did the same,
On all those poor old Tuscans
Up north in chilly Pisa:
And as to how it got its funny name -
Go ask Mister Caesar.