

John Prensner and Sarah Barbrow

AUGUST 13, 2011

A Love Story in Puzzles

As many of you know, John proposed to Sarah by sending her on a scavenger hunt all around their apartment to find pieces of a final message. When she finished, she discovered she had the completed message "Will you marry me?" Of course, she said yes and here we all are today.

In honor of this, I have constructed a set of wedding puzzles for the bride and groom at their request. Feel free to work on this with some friends or enjoy yourself. There are nine regular puzzles and then a final tenth puzzle to tie everything together. You shouldn't need any references or the internet – but if you want to use a smart phone, no one will judge you! It is also very possible to complete the final puzzle without doing all of the first nine, so feel free to skip around and do the puzzles you enjoy most.

Constructed by Erin Rhode

Connecting To Each Other

Many are the bonds that connect Sarah Barbrow and John Prensner. Even their names can be connected by building three four letter word ladders, changing only one letter per rung. The clues on the right will help you fill in the blanks. When you're done, take the labeled letters in alphabetical order to discover what John and Sarah will be after they are fully connected.

S a r a h B a r b r o w
 _____ A _____
H _____ K
 _____ E _____
M _____ I _____ G
 _____ N _____ J
 _____ F D _____ B _____
 _____ _____ C _____
 _____ L _____
J o h n P r e n s n e r

The bride

Legal assistant for short, Listen, Black bird

To peel like an apple, Black or polar, Eat

Tiny skin opening, Rhythm, This must go on!

Front, Navy or black, Wearing loafers or boots

Center, Common past participle, Garden storage

Maize or blue, Roadrunner sound, Filed litigation

Numismatist's treasure, Chick sound, Chick food

Unite, Get ready, One who knows the future

The groom

ANSWER:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N

Barbrow Barcode

Just like Sarah's last name, all of the words in the following word search start with the word bar. However, in the grid, the symbol — has replaced the letters *b-a-r* anytime they appear in the word. For example, if Sarah's last name were in the grid (and it's not), it would appear as —BROW. Can you find all 21 words? When you're finished, the remaining letters will spell the start of a common wedding phrase. Complete the phrase to get the answer to the puzzle.

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— — A M — E F O O T —
O B — — R A C K I G N
N — I N S O I C E G R
K T T E I N T N E N E
R E O — D A R S — I T
E N N S I O G S N K S
T D E A C U L — A — I
E E N Y D I M L C R R
M R E — I S T A L E —
O L — R I C A D E L N
— E T T E R — R E T —
  
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- Barbara
- Barbie doll
- Barefoot
- Bargain
- Barge
- Barista
- Baritone
- Barium
- Barking
- Barleycorn
- Barnacle
- Barnstorm
- Barometer
- Baron
- Barrack
- Barrel
- Barrette
- Barricade
- Barrister
- Bartender
- Barter

ANSWER: _____

Prensner Voodoo

John's last name is *almost* a palindrome – the same word forwards and backwards – save for that pesky p on the end. Can you determine six other almost-palindromes? For example, *Cole slaw or potato salad* would clue SIDEDISH, which is a palindrome with an extra H. Take the extra letters (not including the example) to get the answer – something John has been for the last eight months.

Example: Cole slaw or potato salad

s i d e d i s h

Something you can get at an open bar (2 words)

■ _ _ _ _ _

Setting on fire

■ _ _ _ _ _

Like lemon juice or vinegar, but not something basic

■ _ _ _ _ _

Sea between Greece and Turkey

_ _ _ _ _ ■

Braided bread often eaten on Rosh Hashanah

■ _ _ _ _ _

A place to store your car or tools

_ _ _ _ _ ■

ANSWER: _ _ _ _ _

State Change

While Sarah and John both grew up in Massachusetts, they didn't meet until they moved to Michigan. That's not as big a move as you might think – after all, MA to MI is just exchanging an A for an I. Using the clues below, discover some other words that only differ by exchanging an A for an I. For example, *Take down in football* and *Giggle inducing touch* would lead to the answer TACKLE/TICKLE. Read down the first letter of the answers below to learn where you might find Sarah, regardless of what state she's in.

A word

I word

Sport similar to squash

■ _____ a/i _____

A small printed notice

To gather together

■ _____ a/i _____

Awry

Mutilate or disfigure

■ _____ a/i _____

Something you might do at a party

Very large, like some stars

■ _____ a/i _____

A formal letter

Nickname for a Bornean ape

■ _____ a/i _____

Rubber gasket whose failure caused the Challenger explosion

A brief afternoon respite

■ _____ a/i _____

Mint relative that attracts Garfield

Second half of "Gimme a Break" candy

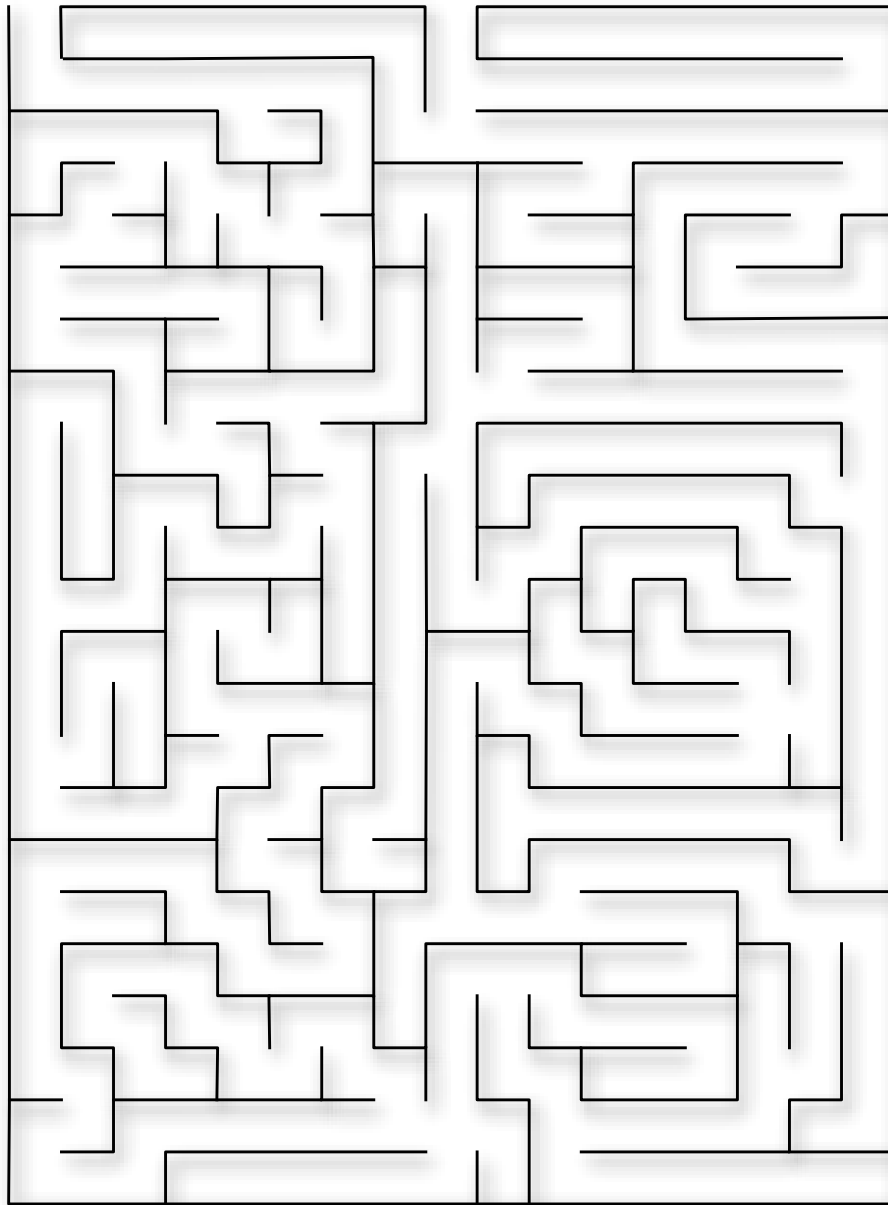
■ _____ a/i _____

First half of "Gimme a Break" candy

ANSWER: _____

Proposal Scavenger Hunt

When John proposed to Sarah, he sent her on a scavenger hunt around all the nooks and crannies in their apartment. Can you help her navigate her way to John? When you're finished, if you've chosen the shortest route, your path will spell a word John might have said after Sarah said yes.



ANSWER: _____

Traditional Wedding Music

It's a little known fact that John once composed a birthday song for Sarah, before they were even dating. Many classical composers have also composed pieces often heard at weddings. Can you name these composers? The highlighted letters give the final answer, a kind of flute once written about by another famous composer.

- The Wedding March* from *A Midsummernight's Dream* (1842) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- Hallelujah Chorus* from *Messiah* (1741) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- Bridal Chorus* from *Lohingrin* (1848) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- Four Seasons* (1723) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- Canon in D* (~1620) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

ANSWER: _ _ _ _ _

Weddings on Film

Sarah and John have never made it to midnight together on New Year's Eve. They have always fallen asleep after a movie. Here are seven movies with the word *wedding* in the title. See if you can determine the movies, given two actors in the film and the year it came out. The highlighted letters will give you the answer word – something that will describe John and Sarah next New Year's Eve.

- Jason Biggs & Alyson Hannigan (2003) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ W e d d i n g
- Hugh Grant & Andie McDowall (1993) _ _ _ _ _ W e d d i n g _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ _ _
- Julia Roberts & Cameron Diaz (1997) W e d d i n g _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ' _
- Nia Vardalos & John Corbett (2002) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ W e d d i n g
- Adam Sandler & Drew Barrymore (1998) _ _ _ _ W e d d i n g _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- Jennifer Lopez & Matthew McConaughey (2001) _ _ _ _ W e d d i n g _ _ _ _ _ _
- Debra Messing & Dermot Mulroney (2005) _ _ _ _ W e d d i n g _ _ _ _ _

ANSWER: _ _ _ _ _

Connect the Celebrity Marriages

Sarah and John may not be international super stars on stage and screen, but they are celebrities to all of us today. Below are number of other celebrities displayed in a seemingly random array. If two people in the array of names below have been married, connect their two dots with a straight line. Not all of the dots will be connected to another dot – even if the celebrity has been married, their spouse may not be listed. Other celebrities may have multiple marriages represented below. For example, Elizabeth Taylor was married to seven men – three of which can be found below. Once you connect all the appropriate dots together, the lines you've drawn in should spell out your answer – something similar to what you might eat for dessert today.



ANSWER: _____


It's De-Lovely!

Sarah and John have picked Cole Porter's "It's De-Lovely" as their wedding song. Everyone knows "de" words speckled through de song... "It's de-lightful, it's de-licious, it's de-lectable, it's de-lirious, it's di-lemma, it's de-limit, it's de-luxe, it's de-lovely!" But not everyone knows about de words Cole Porter didn't use. Each word below can either be parsed as a single word or two words with a completely different meaning. (De first word is always de same.) After you de-code them, de highlighted letters will tell you what John and Sarah might do after they dance.

One word definition

Two word definition

Worthy

D e -  _ _ _ _ _

The single food portion

Harvest goddess

D e -  _ _ _ _ _

The metric length

Committing

D e - _ _ _  _ _ _ _ _

The suffraging

Bank errand

D e - _ _ _  _ _ _ _ _

The assumption

Retrogression

D e -  _ _ _ _ _

The rhythm

Remove

D e - _ _ _ _ _ 

The RPM gage

ANSWER: _ _ _ _ _

Winning Her Heart

Sarah spent a few of her summers way up north of the Arctic circle in Alaska. While she loved her time there, it did mean spending summers without John. To find out what John did to ensure Sarah's return to him, take the answers to the previous puzzles and write them on the appropriate blanks below. Then, transfer the letters to the grid to reveal the message.

1	2		3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10		11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18		19	20	21		22	23		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	32	33		34	35	36		37	38	39	40	41		42	43	44	45	
46	47	48		49	50	51		52	53	54	55		56	57		58	59	60

Connecting to Each Other

7 39 32 52 10 17 45 50 31 5 49 59 23 36

Barbrow Barcode

1 47 12 40 56 35

Prensner Voodoo

42 18 14 44 37 8

State Change

58 20 24 3 22 13 55

Proposal Scavenger Hunt

27 33 57 48 30 51

Traditional Wedding Music

19 4 29 43 54

Weddings on Film

11 53 9 15 25 2 41

Connect the Celebrity Marriages

21 28 6

It's De-Lovely

34 60 16 38 26 46