

DOSSIER FILE: CATCH ETHERIA SMITH!

QUINTETRAHEDRONICON

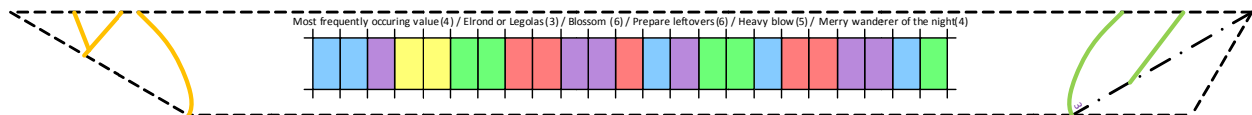
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Answer: MINX

Step 1: Deciphering the clues

As each puzzle is solved, a new shard of the QTH is discovered:



Immediately, the clues on each shard can be solved and the answers written in the colored spaces. The first and last letters of each clue overlap to aid solving. For example, “Most frequently occurring value” (MODE), “Elrond or Legolas” (ELF), “Blossom” (FLOWER), “Prepare leftovers” (REHEAT), “Heavy blow” (THUMP), and “Merry wanderer of the night” (PUCK) are written into the squares as:

MODELFLOWEREHEATHUMPUCK

Step 2: Assembling the tetrahedrons

Once a sufficient number of shards are collected, reassembly of the tetrahedrons can begin. Reassembly is aided by the colored shapes on either end of each shard. Six shards meet to form each vertex of each tetrahedron, for a total of twelve shards per tetrahedron and five tetrahedrons. Looking at a vertex dead on reveals a letter:

<pic>

Step 3: Reading the vertices

Each vertex of each tetrahedron has a small index number in one corner, which provides an ordering to read the vertex message. Ordering by rainbow color then number, the message “read blue text backwards on me” is revealed.

Step 4: Reading the ON ME message

One tetrahedron contains all of the letters for “on me”, indicating that the message refers to this tetrahedron. Reading only the letters in the blue squares and backwards reveals four messages, one on each side. They are ordered by an initial letter which is not part of the message itself:

“a build out from me”
“b match homophones”
“c read rainbow order”
“d starting by big x”

Step 5: Assembling the QTH

The first two phrases of the ON ME message indicate that the other four tetrahedrons should be attached to each face of the ON ME tetrahedron by matching words which sound alike on facing shards. For example, one shard of the ON ME tetrahedron has the word “flower” which matches the word “flour” on another shard. The completed QTH looks like this:

<pic>

Step 6: Reading the rainbow message

The latter two phrases of the ON ME message are instructions to read a message along the blades of the outer tetrahedrons, starting by the vertex with the X on it. The message is read by repeating rainbow ordering, skipping intermediate squares which do not match the next color in the pattern. For example, the first letter is ‘r’, which is in a red square. The next letter, ‘u’, is in a yellow square. Any letters between these two are ignored. When the end of a blade is reached, the message continues on an adjacent blade, although some trial and error is necessary to find it. In its entirety, the message is:

“Run yarn from color sandwiched letters in alphabetical order view from matching colored point touch nose to point”

Step 7: Diving the answer

A small number of spots on the shards of the outer tetrahedrons are “color sandwiched”, meaning, for example, that there is a yellow square between two blue squares. There are four inner colors represented, and each inner square has a letter from ‘a’ to ‘b’, ‘d’, ‘f’, or ‘h’, depending on the color. Using yarn or some other high-visibility string-like object, string the yarn from the square with ‘a’ of a color, to ‘b’ of the same color, to ‘c’ of the same color, and so on, until all letters of a single color are exhausted. Finally, the observer should touch the point of the QTH which matches the color of the sandwiched letter to his or her nose and look into the center of the QTH (rotating about the point against the nose as necessary). A letter will be visible formed by the yarn in the heart of the QTH. For example, here is the letter formed by connecting all of the red sandwiched letters:

<pic>

Repeat this for the other three colors in rainbow order to spell out the answer.