

## FROM NEW YORK TO L.A.

### THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2023

We received 118 entries for the quiz, eight more than last year and exactly the same as the year before. Of these only six were completely correct, compared with thirteen last time, so this was clearly a tough one. A further thirteen contestants made only one mistake and a total of 47 scored 95 or more.

As usual there were many familiar names on the leaderboard and the six who scored 100 are all regular contenders. After a draw, the prize winners are:

1. (£50) Christine BOND, Stretford
2. (£35) Rob IRVING, Cardross, Dunbartonshire
3. (£25) Chris Boyle, Diggle

Congratulations to all three and especially to Mrs Bond, who has successfully completed the quiz five times but has never won first prize. Mr Irving has also had five scores of 100 and Mr Boyle three.

Commiserations to the other three who scored 100: Ray HILL, Eccles, Richard SMITH, Lees (last year's winner), and John WEBB, Middleton. They and everyone else who scored 50 or more went into a draw for the £10 consolation prizes and the three winners are Jac BIRCH, Annalise SHORT and Sally TAYLOR. Those who scored 99 are also largely familiar names. They made errors on nine different questions, with Q95 eluding six of them.

Several alternative answers to those we expected were accepted. The main examples are listed below with state ZIP codes following the names of the cities, some very obscure.

3. As well as the expected APPLE CHARLOTTE (NC), other puddings said to have been named in honour of the wife of George III are LEMON and ROYAL CHARLOTTE.

5. We were certainly not expecting anyone but CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS (OH), but one regular contestant offered (probably in jest) his less famous brother and fellow explorer, BARTHOLOMEW.

36. The expected answer was ROBERT LOWELL (MA), but other New England poets include OLIVER (GA) HOLMES, WESLEY (IA) MCNAIR and LELAND (MS) KINSEY.

70. LIONEL HAMPTON (MA) was the only vibraphone player we had heard of, but MILTON (FL) JACKSON was a noted exponent of the same instrument. We also accepted ISAIAH (OK) PERKINS and DEXTER MANNING (SC), musicians who have written songs with "good vibes" in the title.

86. Both SAM TORRANCE (CA) and LEE WESTWOOD (KS) have been members of Ryder Cup winning teams and also won the Dunhill Links Championship.

Here are explanations for a few of the answers which proved most difficult to find:

35. ORLANDO (FL) BLOOM has played Legolas, an elf, in five films in the *Lord of the Rings* and *Hobbit* series. Several contestants offered Warwick Davis (CA), but he has played Lubdan, a leprechaun, in six films.

73. Most entrants knew or discovered that Ralph W Emerson and Henry D Thoreau were leading figures in the literary circle based in Concord (MA) in the mid-nineteenth century, but few found the precise answer to the clue. The CONCORD SONATA is a piano work by Charles Ives, with the first movement named after Emerson and the last after Thoreau.

95. This proved to be very difficult, with at least sixteen different answers submitted relating to American singers seen in various modes of transport. The answer is very precise, RENO (NE) SWEENEY being a nightclub singer travelling across the Atlantic aboard the liner SS American in the 1934 Cole Porter musical *Anything Goes*.

98. WE BOMBED IN NEW HAVEN (CT) is a 1967 anti-war black comedy by Joseph Heller which was surprisingly unsuccessful ("bombed").

99. The ABILENE (TX) PARADOX is a theory that is sometimes used to explain poor decision making by groups. It suggests that individuals who do not personally support a proposal will often vote in favour of it because they mistakenly believe that the majority of the group's members do support it; in other words they don't want to "rock the boat".

100. WILL IT PLAY IN PEORIA?

Peoria (IL) has come to be regarded in popular culture as the archetypal small Middle American city, so this question is often jokily asked about a new product or political initiative.

### **And finally...**

After thirty years I have decided to retire from setting this quiz. I would like to thank everyone who has supported it, especially those who have been competing for all or most of that time. Special thanks to all those who have included kind comments with their entries. The most successful solvers have been Alan GILL, Bolton (10 all-correct entries), David GODDARD, Failsworth (9), Richard SMITH, Lees (9), Melanie CROPPER, Oldham (8), Don YOUNG, Shaw (8), Alison BOTTERILL, Cardiff (6), the BRIERLEY family, Stalybridge (6), Maureen QUARMBY, Shaw (6), David SMITH, Eccles (6), Val STUBBS, Moston (6) and John WEBB, Middleton (6).

Steve Willis, February 2024

### **A message from The Blue Coat School**

We would like to say a big thank you to Steve, who has decided to retire from setting this very successful and much enjoyed quiz after thirty years of raising funds for our school. We are extremely grateful for the time Steve has dedicated to this quiz for the last thirty years, and the children at our school have certainly benefited from his generosity.

For those friends of Blue Coat and parents alike, we wish to continue the tradition of our cryptic Christmas quiz and invite you to purchase a copy in December 2024 directly from our school. We would be very pleased to have your continued support.

Thank you once again Steve – it has been a great pleasure working with you for the last 30 years and we wish you all the very best for the future.

## FROM NEW YORK TO L.A.

### THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2023: ANSWERS

1	FIRST PRESIDENT (6,10)	<b>George Washington</b>
2	1968 HIT FOR GLEN (7,7)	<b>Wichita Lineman</b>
3	DESSERT FIT FOR A QUEEN (5,9)	<b>Apple/Lemon/Royal Charlotte</b>
4	PRELUDE TO REVOLUTION (6,3,5)	<b>Boston Tea Party</b>
5	GENOESE EXPLORER (11,8)	<b>Christopher/Bartholomew Columbus</b>
6	DIONNE'S LOST IN CALIFORNIA (2,3,4,3,3,2,3,4)	<b>Do You Know The Way To San Jose?</b>
7	KING'S SECOND NOVEL (6,3)	<b>Salem's Lot</b>
8	A WIMBLEDON WINNER WITH HER BROTHER (5,6)	<b>Tracy Austin</b>
9	BURGESS PLUS FOUR (9,4)	<b>Cambridge Five</b>
10	SLIGHT MISQUOTATION FROM A LUNAR MISSION (7,2,4,1,7)	<b>Houston, We Have A Problem</b>
11	MEG-TOM ROM-COM (9,2,7)	<b>Sleepless In Seattle</b>
12	CATCH IT ON TRACK 29 (11,4, 4)	<b>Chattanooga Choo Choo</b>
13	THE BEGINNING OF 1989 (7,2,3,4)	<b>Welcome To New York</b>
14	LOG CABIN TO WHITE HOUSE (7,7)	<b>Abraham Lincoln</b>
15	WARREN BUFFETT (4,2,5 or 6,2,5)	<b>Sage/Oracle of Omaha</b>
16	WHITE MELTING CHEESE (8,4)	<b>Monterey Jack</b>
17	ELVIS IS LUCKY (4,3,5)	<b>Viva Las Vegas</b>
18	THE GREATEST NICKNAME (10,3)	<b>Louisville Lip</b>
19	BOB GOES COUNTRY (9,7)	<b>Nashville Skyline</b>
20	SCOTTISH SPORTS PRESENTER (5,6)	<b>Hazel Irvine</b>
21	HE LEFT LIVERPOOL FOR DAMMAM (6,9)	<b>Jordan Henderson</b>
22	IRON CHANCELLOR (4,3,8)	<b>Otto Von Bismarck</b>

23	MOONSTRUCK OSCAR WINNER (7,7)	<b>Olympia Dukakis</b>
24	NORTHERN LIGHTS (6,8)	<b>Aurora Borealis</b>
25	COLOURFUL BLACKBIRD (9,6)	<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>
26	HOME OF THE LAUGH-IN (9,8,7)	<b>Beautiful Downtown Burbank</b>
27	RARE YORKSHIRE HORSE (9,3)	<b>Cleveland Bay</b>
28	GERMANY'S LAST EMPRESS (7,8)	<b>Augusta Victoria/Viktoria</b>
29	BALKAN PEACE FRAMEWORK (6,7 or 6,9)	<b>Dayton Accords/Agreement</b>
30	BUCK AND MERLE WERE LEADING EXPONENTS (11,5)	<b>Bakersfield Sound</b>
31	HE WAS MARRIED TO VICTORIA FOR 25 YEARS (8,6)	<b>Geoffrey Durham</b>
32	DUTCH STRIKER (7,5)	<b>Memphis Depay</b>
33	CATALAN SOPRANO (8,2,3,7)	<b>Victoria De Los Angeles</b>
34	RED-SKINNED APPLE (9,8)	<b>Worcester Pearmain</b>
35	FIVE TIMES AN ELF ON FILM (7,5)	<b>Orlando Bloom</b>
36	NEW ENGLAND POET (6,6)	<b>Robert Lowell / Wesley McNair / Oliver Holmes / Leland Kinsey</b>
37	HE FAILED TO FIND EL DORADO (6,7)	<b>Walter Raleigh</b>
38	MIKE AND STEVE'S BEAT (3,7,2,3,9)	<b>The Streets of San Francisco</b>
39	BORDESLEY BLUES (10,4)	<b>Birmingham City</b>
40	HOMER WAS BRIEFLY THEIR MASCOT (11,8)	<b>Springfield Isotopes</b>
41	CAMBRIDGE'S IS OLDER THAN OXFORD'S (6,7,7)	<b>Corpus Christi College</b>
42	MAD MEN'S ORIGINAL WORKPLACE (7,6)	<b>Madison Avenue</b>
43	ADELAIDE'S GUY (6,7)	<b>Nathan Detroit</b>
44	50 SCOTTISH CAPS DESPITE A HEART CONDITION (3,8)	<b>Asa Hartford</b>
45	BUT HIS SEAT IS IN SUSSEX (4,2,7)	<b>Duke Of Norfolk</b>
46	READER, SHE MARRIED HIM (6,7,9)	<b>Edward Fairfax</b>

		<b>Rochester</b>
47	L.A. P.I. (3,8)	<b>Jim Rockford</b>
48	FRENCH CHARDONNAY (5-8)	<b>Macon-Villages</b>
49	HE DIED IN HIS TITAN (8,4)	<b>Stockton Rush</b>
50	DRIP ARTIST (7,7)	<b>Jackson Pollock</b>
51	FURNESS BOY WHO BECAME A STAR (6,7,9)	<b>Arthur Stanley Jefferson</b>
52	NEIL'S ORIGINAL DESTINATION WAS PENSACOLA (2,4,3,3,2,8)	<b>(Is This The Way To) Amarillo?</b>
53	OWN-LABEL BRAND (8,6)	<b>Stamford Street</b>
54	MASONIC ICON (3,2,10)	<b>Eye Of Providence</b>
55	BETWEEN TUCSON AND VERACRUZ (7,5,2)	<b>Hyundai Santa Fe</b>
56	HE SHARED A PRIZE WITH HIS WIFE AND HENRI (6,5)	<b>Pierre Curie</b>
57	SMALLEST OF THE BIG FOUR (5,5)	<b>Wells Fargo</b>
58	THE ANSWER IS "NOT VERY" (3,3,2,2,2,9)	<b>How Far Is It To Bethlehem?</b>
59	AS BILL INITIALLY SAID, SOMEBODY HAD TO! (1,4,4,3,6)	<b>I Come From Des Moines</b>
60	TO BILLIE JEAN, WITH LOVE (12,7)	<b>Philadelphia Freedom</b>
61	SEXIST TALKING DOLL (6,5)	<b>Malibu Stacy</b>
62	A NEW POEM BY ARNOLD (5,5)	<b>Dover Beach</b>
63	CLINT DECLINED HIS CHALLENGE (6,4)	<b>Romain Gary</b>
64	ROBERT STEWART WAS THE FIRST (4,2,6)	<b>Duke of Albany</b>
65	NANA'S FLOWER (3,5,4,2,6)	<b>The White Rose Of Athens</b>
66	SCHOOL INTEGRATION PIONEERS (6,4,4)	<b>Little Rock Nine</b>
67	IT ENDED IN FREEFALL (5,4)	<b>Miami Vice</b>
68	THE TRAGIC STORY OF MICHAEL FARADAY (9,4)	<b>Arlington Road</b>
69	ROODEE'S SISTER COURSE (6-2-3)	<b>Bangor-On-Dee</b>
70	HE GAVE GOOD VIBES (6,7)	<b>Lionel Hampton / Milton Jackson / Isaiah Perkins /</b>

		<b>Dexter Manning</b>
71	BLOOMSBURY'S RURAL OUTPOST (10,9)	<b>Charleston Farmhouse</b>
72	IRENE TWICE PROVED HER WORTH IN THIS (4,2,7)	<b>Lost In Yonkers</b>
73	EMERSON FIRST, THOREAU LAST (7,6)	<b>Concord Sonata</b>
74	THE FLOOR OF A VERY BIG TRENCH (9,4 or 9,5)	<b>Milwaukee Deep/Depth</b>
75	STEVE'S SOUTHBOUND TRAIN (4,2,3,7)	<b>City Of New Orleans</b>
76	IT'S HANDY IN GERMANY (6,5)	<b>Mobile Phone</b>
77	THE BIG THING AFTER MOVING TO L.A. (7,7,9)	<b>Chicago Transit Authority</b>
78	THE SETTING IS DON'S SHOP (8,7)	<b>American Buffalo</b>
79	IT ENDS WITH A POKER GAME (3,10,3)	<b>The Cincinnati Kid</b>
80	HENRY'S DUBIOUS PAPER (3,8,11)	<b>The Dearborn Independent</b>
81	OLD JONATHAN'S HOME SINCE 1882 (5,6)	<b>Saint Helena</b>
82	FANTASY FOOTBALL FEATURE (7,4,3,6)	<b>Phoenix From The Flames</b>
83	LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER (8,4)	<b>Portland Bill</b>
84	REGICIDE SITE (8,6)	<b>Berkeley Castle</b>
85	A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE SMITHS (4,2,2,2,5)	<b>Meet Me In St Louis</b>
86	RYDER AND DUNHILL WINNER (3,8)	<b>Sam Torrance / Lee Westwood</b>
87	PLAYBOYS' THEME SONG (3,7,4)	<b>San Antonio Rose</b>
88	LONG-LOST MANCHESTER PLEASURE GROUNDS (6,7)	<b>Pomona Gardens</b>
89	FRENCH STORE CHAIN (8,9)	<b>Galleries Lafayette</b>
90	ALPHABETICAL WARTIME HIT (3,3,1,3,2,9)	<b>(I've Got A Gal In) Kalamazoo</b>
91	BILL IS A TREAT IN THIS CULT MOVIE (6,2,2,2,6,4,5,4)	<b>Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead</b>
92	DESIGNER WITH A FAMOUS SISTER (8,6)	<b>Savannah Miller</b>
93	A MUSICAL TALE OF SEPARATED TWINS (3,4,4,8)	<b>The Boys From Syracuse</b>
94	IT CHANGED ITS NAME IN 1959 (3,10,8)	<b>The Manchester</b>

		<b>Guardian</b>
95	SINGING AMERICAN PASSENGER (4,7)	<b>Reno Sweeney</b>
96	INSTRUMENTAL RELIC (7,4,4,3,6)	<b>Careful With That Axe, Eugene</b>
97	HIS CAROL FIRST APPEARED IN HIS NEWSPAPER (5,10)	<b>James Montgomery</b>
98	ANTI-WAR PLAY WHICH (APPROPRIATELY?) DID NOT CATCH ON (2,6,2,3,5)	<b>We Bombed In New Haven</b>
99	WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO ROCK THE BOAT (7,7)	<b>Abilene Paradox</b>
100	WILL MIDDLE AMERICA LIKE IT? (4,2,4,2,6)	<b>Will It Play In Peoria?</b>