

Says Linda (and Dave)

Some of the Linda Ferrazzara-Dave Zobel *Says You!* question collaborations

1. A holiday-season "Odd Man Out": Which item doesn't belong, and why? A loaf of bread, a box of salt, a bottle of wine, a pitcher of martinis
2. Clerihews (Fill in the blanks to complete the rhyme; the first blank is the subject's name):

Wrote in English, though
born a _____,
Thanks to his Three Laws of
Robotics
All IA's AIs were neurotics.
(A clue!)
3. IgNobels: The Peace Prize was awarded to Milo Puhan, Alex Suarez, and four others for finding that "operation of an aboriginal ligneous labrosone can abate nocturnal nasopharyngeal bombination." What was their discovery?
4. What's the difference between loath and loathe?
5. What's the difference between a cyborg and an android?
6. What's the Scully Effect?
7. What comes next? Ice cream sandwich, jelly bean, Kit Kat, lollipop, marshmallow,
_____.

white-knuckled second of the journey there and back.

The first time I attended a live taping, I was a little intimidated by the size of the crowd, lined up at the entrance and then jostling for seats. But trepidation soon turned to exhilaration. Sitting in a packed theater with hundreds of other *Says You!* fans, I couldn't help but get caught up in the relaxed but expectant atmosphere. And once the panelists were on stage and the game was in full swing, everyone in the audience, including me, was playing right along with them.

Says You! invites listener input – questions, comments, corrections – so I started sending in a few of my own contributions through its website, saysyou.net. I'm an avid and eclectic reader, and soon every unusual word I'd happen across would become fodder for a *Says You!* submission. Then it became even more than that: odd facts, strange relationships, amusing ideas, obscure personalities and events. I'd think, *Could this be part of a Says You! round? Would the panelists have some fun with that idea? Is that notion something that might interest listeners?* I began evaluating my experiences as either *Says You!*-worthy or not, a filter, perhaps, but I had started paying more attention to even the most mundane aspects of life, and life became that much more interesting.

Up to that point, my infatuation was one-sided.

I'd send in submissions that might or might not be used, and, when they were, I'd hear my name announced. Fine. But then it happened. *Says You!* writer Dave Zobel, acknowledging one of my submissions, asked if I would like to meet the panelists in person in the green room before a live taping. On Sept. 23, 2017, my daughter and I excitedly trooped down to the Tilden Arts Center in West Barnstable, Mass., for this extra-special episode of *Says You!* to meet the cast and crew.

Behind the scenes, chaos reigned. People were scrambling back and forth, everyone busy with I-knew-not-what errands, getting ready for the live shows. Chaperoned by Dave, we were introduced to executive producer Laura Sher (Richard's widow) and the panelists, who warmly welcomed us into the turmoil. It was high-energy, organized pandemonium.

Later that night during the tapings, when my contribution to one of the bluffing rounds came up ("secateurs"), my name was announced, and I was invited to stand up to audience applause.

I'm shy. I'm quiet. I'm basically an introvert, but this was intoxicating. *I could get used to this*, I thought.

After the tapings, Dave asked me if I'd like to help write a few shows. I agreed without hesitation. But then I stopped to think about what I had just agreed to do.

