

Play Schools (answer)

Each trigram stolen by a player is part of that player's name; the extra words help match names to players by identifying visible features of their pictures, such as the "braces" worn by EVE in 7-Across. The single letters replacing the stolen trigrams spell the unscrupulous players' credo: WINNER TAKES ALL.

The virtuous players can be identified by pulling trigrams from the answers they left intact in order to form plausible names. If read aloud in order, these names reveal the virtuous players' philosophy: SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE ("Sharon Cheryl Ike").

Across

- 1 S + HINNIES
- 7 SLEEVE (anagram)
[braces; SLEW]
- 10 HEDWIG (*head wig* homophone)
- 12 CHEESE (hidden)
[bonnet; no change]
- 13 A + L + ASK + A
- 14 LAGER (reversal)
- 16 MAN + I + CURED
[pigtails; MATURED]
- 17 BOON(I)E'S [cap; BOORS]
- 18 ThE + STY
- 19 F(O)RAYS [Mohawk; FOES]
- 21 TENOR (*tenner* homophone)
- 25 F(LIES) AT [glasses; FLINT]
- 26 I(RO)N (*or* reversal)
[earrings; no change]
- 28 L + YCR + A (*cry* anagram)
- 32 COOLEST (anagram)
[freckles; COAST]
- 34 ASHAMED (anagram)
[flower; no change]
- 35 CLI + P + PER [tattoos; CAPER]
- 36 UNTOWARD (anagram)
[beard; UNTOLD]
- 37 EA(ST + E)RLY [ribbon; EASILY]
- 38 PAR + DONE + D
[bowler; PARKED]
- 39 SE(CO)ND [pearls; SEED]
- 40 P + HI + LANDERS
[hood; SLANDERS]

Down

- 1 SH(A + BB)Y
- 2 H(ELD)OFFa (*led* anagram)
- 3 I + DAH + O (*had* reversal)
- 4 NIKES (anagram) [tie; no change]
- 5 E + CLAT (full reversal)
- 6 S + HATTER
- 7 S(EG)UE
- 8 LEERS (*Lears* homophone)
- 9 WEND(Y)S
- 11 G + AMEST (*teams* anagram)
- 15 TROI (anagram)
- 20 E(NAME)LS
- 21 TI(ED U)P
- 22 S(A + L)OON
[mustache; NOON]
- 23 RU(ST)LER
- 24 GRENADES (anagram)
[helmet; GLADES]
- 27 A + T ODDS
- 29 C + HAS + E
- 30 R + A + PID (full reversal)
- 31 BERYL (hidden)
[pendant; no change]
- 32 C(ON)AN
- 33 AW(OK)E

S	H	I	N	N	I	E	S	S	L	E	W
H	E	D	W	I	G	C	H	E	E	S	E
A	L	A	S	K	A	L	A	G	E	R	N
B	D	H	T	E	M	A	T	U	R	E	D
B	O	O	R	S	E	T	T	E	S	T	Y
Y	F	F	O	E	S	T	E	N	O	R	S
G	F	L	I	N	T	I	R	O	N	U	A
L	Y	C	R	A	B	E	C	O	A	S	T
A	S	H	A	M	E	D	O	N	W	T	O
D	C	A	P	E	R	U	N	T	O	L	D
E	A	S	I	L	Y	P	A	R	K	E	D
S	E	E	D	S	L	A	N	D	E	R	S

