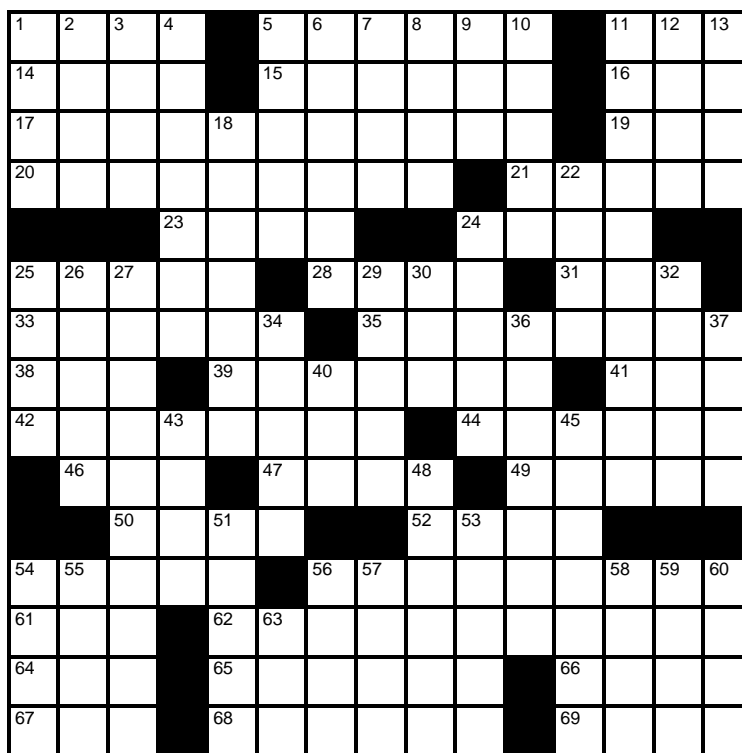


## And the Winner Is... (featuring the 2018 Best Clue honorees)

Crossword by Samuel A. Donaldson

### Across

- 1 Closer to mother and child?  
 5 Hour-long shows, often  
 11. Blue ball  
 14 James of soul  
 15 Pass the fruitcake?  
 16 Once possessed  
 17 With great sadness  
 19 Fuss of Shakespearean proportions?  
 20 Smart communication device  
 21 Soda size  
 23 Restaurant titan Toots  
 24 Stamp on some mail  
 25 Bash, in the biblical sense  
 28 Actress Kunis  
 31 Knock on the noggin'  
 33 "Healthy" oil  
 35 Pool noodles  
 38 UNC's league  
 39 Likely will  
 41 Common word on Brazilian maps  
 42 What may blossom from buds?  
 44 Looking bad?  
 46 Yellow ball  
 47 Lose-and-go-home tourney round  
 49 Davis on the big screen  
 50 Air-pressure unit  
 52 Slanted column  
 54 "\_\_\_ there yet?" (question posed *way* too soon)  
 56 Cabbage for canning?  
 61 Cry over spilled milk, perhaps  
 62 Prized part of a beef?  
 64 Internet hookup, for short  
 65 Holy city in Iowa?  
 66 Graceland middle name  
 67 Single dose?  
 68 Los \_\_\_  
 69 Oft-pantomimed song



### Down

- 1 Pianist Myra  
 2 "Then again," on Twitter  
 3 Another in Acapulco  
 4 Has the gumption  
 5 Longest-running sci-fi show, abbreviated so as to annoy fans  
 6 Tax \_\_\_  
 7 "Janie's Got \_\_\_" (Aerosmith hit)  
 8 Bannister length  
 9 Pt. of a famed 1955 merger  
 10 Topic in Vogue  
 11 Going off line  
 12 Famed litigant that likely eschews roe on sushi  
 13 Musk, e.g.  
 18 Character with a fondness for saying "good night"  
 22 Titan in a silo (Abbr.)  
 24 Totaled  
 25 It may be a sore spot  
 26 Apt econ. course for grade inflation?  
 27 Bad way to be held  
 29 Architect who turns 102 in April  
 30 Like some pilots (but hopefully not like other pilots)  
 32 Spy  
 34 Buffett portrayer in "Too Big to Fail"  
 36 Comics canine  
 37 Old Venetian cheese  
 40 Body pt. prone to tears  
 43 "That was spiteful!"  
 45 Ushered out  
 48 Omega alternative  
 51 One-named co-star of "Parks and Recreation"  
 53 Change sought in Cuba  
 54 In the thick  
 55 Parks of Alabama  
 56 Ward on set  
 57 He or I, but not she  
 58 "\_\_\_ Macdonald Has a Show" (Netflix series)  
 59 Caiman cuz  
 60 BBC Dame  
 63 Xmas or St. Pat's Day, e.g.

H	O	O	D		D	R	A	M	A	S		T	W	O		
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D	A	T			A	L	A	M	O	S		Y	M	C	A	

### **Best Clue of 2018 Honorees**

**1-A** [Closer to mother and child?] for HOOD: “Themeless” by Tracy Bennett, in “Women of Letters” (ed. Patti Varol and Amy Reynaldo) (April 25)

**20-A** [Smart communication device] for SHOEPHONE: “Themeless 112” by Peter Gordon, Fireball Crosswords (January 24)

**35-A** [Pool noodles] for MINDMELD: “Themeless 82” by Erik Agard, Glutton for Pun Crosswords (March 12)

**42-A** [What may blossom from buds?] for BROMANCE: Untitled, by Neville Fogarty, New York Times (ed. Will Shortz) (October 25)

**56-A** [Cabbage for canning?] for SEVERANCE: Untitled, by Byron Walden, New York Times (ed. Will Shortz) (October 27)

**61-A** [Cry over spilled milk, perhaps] for MOM: Untitled, by Robyn Weintraub, New York Times (ed. Will Shortz) (December 29)

**62-A** [Prized part of a beef?] for THE LAST WORD: “The Weekly Crossword: Monday, June 18, 2018” by Patrick Berry, The New Yorker (June 18)

**67-A** [Single dose?] for DAT: Untitled, by Greg Johnson, Los Angeles Times (ed. Rich Norris) (May 12)

**11-D** [Going off line] for THAT DOES IT, “Aries Freestyle #3,” by Andrew J Ries, Aries Puzzles (January 24)