Carnival Games: SOLUTION

ANSWER: BABYYODA

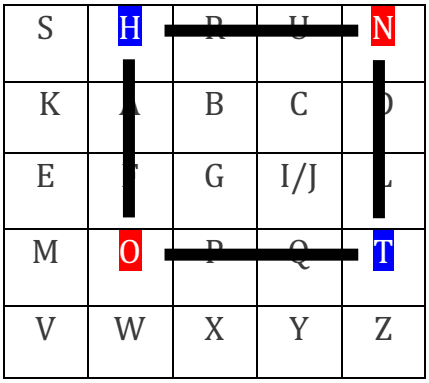
The flavor text clues the following: SHRUNK, ***play, fair, cipher, musical, song,*** and ***title***.

In the eight puzzle paragraphs, there are two to four misspellings of words that are not valid English. These misspellings are all of the form of two-letter inversions, e.g. CAT -> CTA. The misspelled words for each paragraph are (inverted letters in order of appearance):

1. eml → elm, roomeZ → Zoomer (ML RZ)
2. refiel → relief, foor → roof, pZ ToZ → ZZ Top (FL FR PZ)
3. oerz→ zero, twfleth → twelfth, gasem → games (OZ FE SM)
4. onise → noise, slyphg → glpghs, haginv → having (ON SG GV)
5. ozo → zoo, yoursfle → yourself, gasem → games (OZ FE SM)
6. extaushing → exhausting, haginv → having (TH GV)
7. sefl → self, foor → roof, milped → limped, ltasls → stalls (FL FR ML LS)
8. sgilhtly → slightly, mtreased → streamed (GL MS)

S	H	R	U	N
K	A	B	C	D
E	F	G	I/J	L
M	O	P	Q	T
V	W	X	Y	Z

SHRUNK is the password to a Playfair cipher, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Playfair_cipher. A solver should construct the grid specific to this keyword (left). Playfair ciphers break the message into two letter pairs which are encrypted together. The pairs of transposed letters above are the encrypted message.



For a full explanation of how to decipher Playfair ciphers, see the aforementioned article. There are four operations one uses to encrypt and inversely to decrypt messages. An example encryption (right), takes the pair ON (red) and imagines drawing a rectangle using those letters as two of the vertices. The other vertices TH (blue) become the encrypted pair. By convention, the ordering is to take the letter in the same row as the first letter. There are additional operations for when the pair appear in the same row or column. Xs are appended to odd-length messages to correct parity.

The encrypted, decrypted, and composed messages for each paragraph are the following and are used later in the solution:

1. ML RZ → TE NX → TEN
2. FL FR PZ → EI GH TX → EIGHT
3. OZ FE SM → TW EL VE → TWELVE
4. ON SG GV → TH RE EX → THREE
5. OZ FE SM → TW EL VE → TWELVE
6. TH GV → ON EX → ONE
7. FL FR ML LS → EI GH TE EN → EIGHTEEN
8. GL SM → FI VE → FIVE

Lines from songs of the musical movie "My Fair Lady" also appear in the paragraphs, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Fair_Lady_(film). The musical is hinted in the flavor text as the two lead actors names are *Audrey* Hepburn and *Rex* Harrison. Another hint is reference to the Cockney dialect as a major problem in the musical is the lead's accent and eventual training to remove it. The lines and the referred to songs for each paragraph are the following (apostrophes remove):

1. with one enormous chair → WOULDNT IT BE LOVERLY
2. all the jewels in the crown → I COULD HAVE DANCED ALL NIGHT
3. with a little bit of bloomin' luck → WITH A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK
4. I'd rather hear a choir singing flat. → WHY CANT THE ENGLISH
5. nothing more than just an ordinary chance → IM AN ORDINARY MAN
6. on the street where you live → ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE
7. I've grown accustomed to the tune → IVE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO HER FACE
8. George, she's got it! → THE RAIN IN SPAIN

The letters appearing in the song title at the index signaled by the composed decrypted messages form the following string: BABYYODA or BABY YODA.