

Phone Tap: Solution

Carmen's "Morphemic Morpher" is a fancy term for a word-ladder puzzle! Both modes have the number of steps are given, along with a middle word to help keep solvers "on track"; Gumshoes are also shown the first letter of each step. In order, the transformed words are:

TAP #1: Free Period, BRAIN FOOD

-"Dee" Vower ate "one word's worth of food," and since Carmen tells her to "use the four letters left," we begin with FOOD.

FOOD

WOOD

WORE

WORE

WIRE

WIFE

("Something you may see on a family tree")

**TAP #2: Science and Maths, OUR SENSE OF
WONDER**

**-Carmen tells Eva Lushun to use the “first half
of that six letter word.” Begin with WON.**

WON

WOW

BOW

(“Something decorative or dangerous”)

TAP #3: Language Arts, UPON THE HEATH

**-Miriam Webster can’t use the last letter of
her five-letter word (HEATH), so Carmen tells
her to “take it off.” We begin with HEAT.**

HEAT

HEAD

HERD

HERE

MERE

***(Carmen clues to “trifling”--not “annoying,”
but “a pittance,” or mere!)***

**TAP #4: Social Studies, SEVEN HILLS OF ROME
-Cy Kohsis, LICSW, is told to use the “second
five letter word.” Begin with HILLS.**

HILLS

GILLS

GILDS

GOLDS

GOADS

GRADS

GRADE

GRAVE

GROVE

***(“Something outdoorsy” refers to trees, while
“Bohemian” references the infamous
Bohemian Grove)***

**We now have four seemingly unrelated
words: WIFE, BOW, MERE, and GROVE. What to
do with them? Well, in true 90’s computer
game fashion, the answer was with you all**

**along--in the form of the railway maps
included in your folders!**

**Each answer is part of the name of one of the
terminal stations of Boston's subway lines.**

**And wouldn't you know that the *original*
meta-answer of each area contains a word
found in the opposite terminal of that line! :O**

In Phone Tap Order:

**-Free Period: BRAIN FOOD, WIFE= *Braintree,*
Alewife (the Red Line, with its connections to
Harvard and A.R.T)**

**-Science and Maths: OUR SENSE OF WONDER,
BOW: *Wonderland, Bowdoin* (the Blue Line,
which has the Aquarium)**

**-Language Arts: UPON THE HEATH, MERE:
Heath Street, Lechmere (the Green Line,
literally labeled "B, C, D, E")**

**-Social Studies: SEVEN HILLS OF ROME, GROVE:
Forest Hills, Oak Grove (the Orange Line,
which...well: A direct quote from puzzle**

**author and Fleen Meg Wickham: “I don’t know
why I want Social Studies to be Orange, but I
do.”)**

**All of this information, combined with the
clue about “finding a *connection*” between
the loot and transformed words, reveals that
Carmen’s goal in Boston is none other than
the MBTA! :0**