

[Solution] Little Strings

Written by Ananya

Answer: 

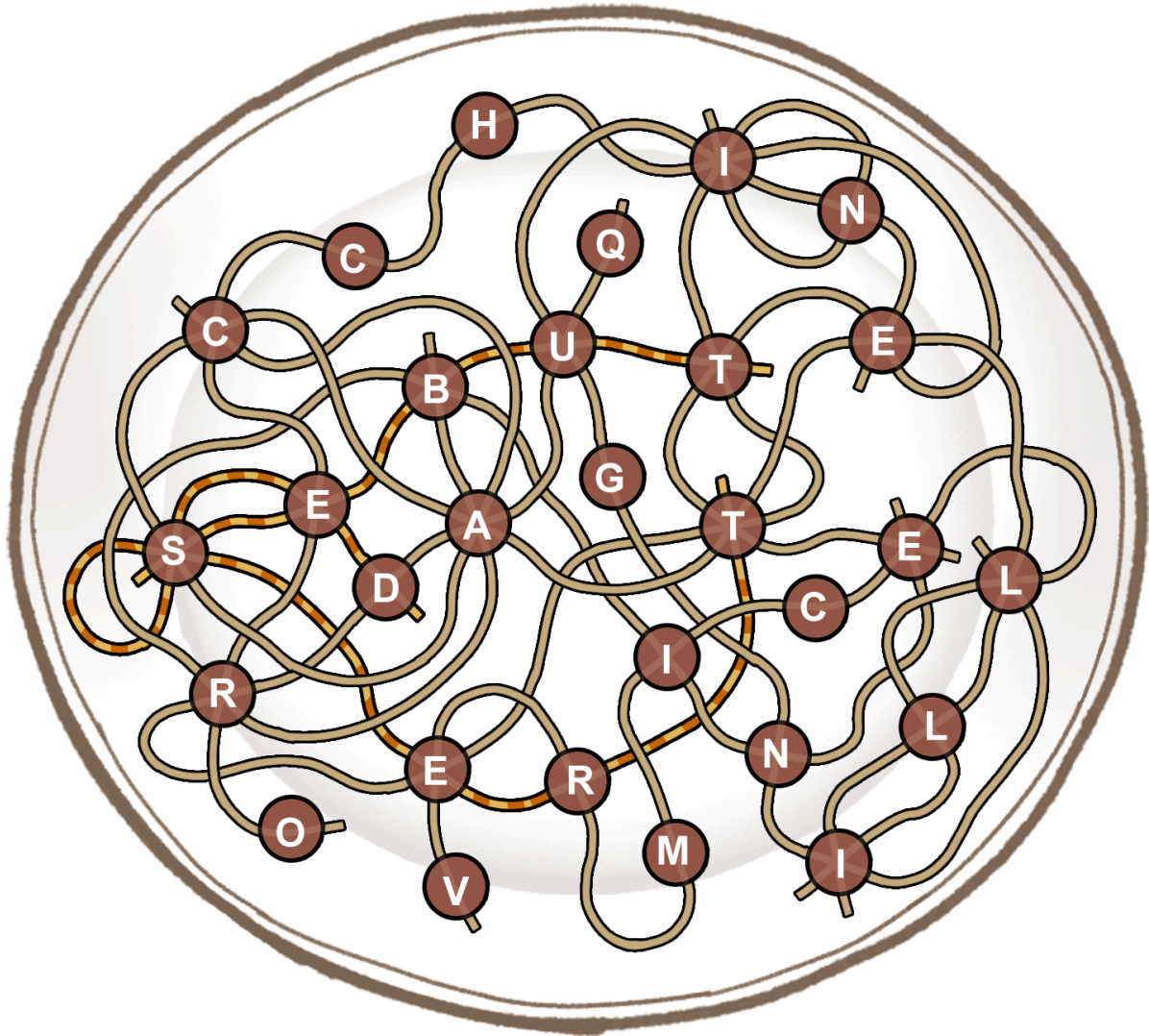
Using the descriptive flavor text about enjoying a “bowl of little strings”, the “meatballs”, or perhaps the presentation of the initial image, puzzlers may begin to draw a connection between “little strings” with “spaghetti”. In fact, the Italian translation of “little strings” **is** “spaghetti”!

Armed with that knowledge, puzzlers must now identify the six clue images as bowls of little things, each of which has an equivalent Italian translation as pasta.

Image	Pasta
Little Beards	BARBINE
Little Waterfalls	CASCATELLI
Little Tongues	LINGUINE
Little Ears	ORECCHIETTE
Little Squares	QUADRETTINI
Little Worms	VERMICELLI

The next step is identifying that each of the meatballs in the large bowl represents a letter and the six basic strings that connect them is one of the six answers. Puzzlers can recognize some of the strings loop through the same meatballs many times and identify that string based on repeated letters.

The final filled letter graph looks like this:



The remaining special string (marked in alternating colors) is the extraction phrase, spelling out "TUBES" and "DESSERT".

The Italian word for "little tubes" is "cannoli", which is a desert.

The answer is **CANNOLI**.

-

Author's Note: The accurate Italian translation of "little waterfalls" is actually "cascatelle", but the creator of the pasta (which is what this puzzle is about) decided on "cascatelli" because it sounded more like the other pastas.