Terminal Jeopardy (answer)

by Gordon Dow

When the three submetas are solved, the following are revealed:

1) Chess pieces on some of the spaces on the three Jeopardy! Boards
2) When the answer screen is displayed, the token word appears with some number of other token words “orbiting” around that token.
3) The rules to Mortal Chess.
4) At the bottom of the rules the sequence “1-7-2-5-5-6-3-4” appears.

These orbiting words are used to construct one large structure using the pieces from the three substructures. If one token is in another token’s orbit, then the reverse will be true too, suggesting that there is a “neighbor” relation between puzzles. A neighbor relation is only revealed if both puzzles are solved.

A larger structure is built using these neighbor relations. However the relations are incomplete; if the instructions are followed completely you wind up with three fragments:

These fragments can only be assembled in one way:

When this structure is completely assembled, take the chess pieces revealed on the Jeopardy! screens and place them on the board. Analyzing the chess game reveals white in dire straits: the black queen has the white king in check, and the white king has nowhere to move.
However, the white rook on PICKET can block the queen by moving to CREEPING. Astonishingly, this also puts the black king (STORER) in check from the white bishop (ENTOPIC), and this is actually a mate position.

This is where the numbers at the bottom of the rules come in. The spaces that the rook crosses are, in order (including start and end position):
PICKET
TERMINAL
URETHAN
THREATEN
INGEST

FIENDISH
ATTENT
CREEPING

If you use the numbers as indices into these words (highlighted in red), you spell the answer:

PARASITE