*Years ago, her father arrived to pick her up from kindergarten, only to find her sandwiched between layers of silly string, glitter, and non-toxic paste. After a brief pause for a prolonged sigh and some heavy eye rolling, he asked, “How is it that you manage to always end up squarely in the middle of every sticky situation?”*

*Her father’s question came back to her as she contemplated her current situation. She wished she knew the answer. “If only I could escape from* this *sticky situation with a long bath,” she thought. She felt trapped halfway between the normal world and a strange fantasy world in which cults used puzzles to communicate secrets.*

*At that moment, two strangers appeared out of the crowd and took her arms. “You’re caught in the middle of something you don’t understand. There are opposing forces at work; as they say, ‘The center will not hold.’ Choose.”*

*She thought about trying to escape, but as abruptly as they appeared, the strangers let go of her arms and vanished into the crowd.*

*She waited for her heartbeat to slow from a thunderous drumming to its regular rhythm. In the middle of a deep breath to calm herself, she realized one of the strangers had placed something in her hand. It was an average-looking envelope. She lifted the flap, unsure what to expect. Inside were four more puzzles.*

*“I wonder how deep this rabbit hole goes? I wonder if I’m even halfway?” It was meant as a joke, but her smile faded as she considered how much more she might have to do to find her way back to a normal life. With one final deep breath, she got to work.*

Using hints provided in the story above along with the answers to each of the puzzles, figure out a four-letter word that describes what the strangers were insisting she choose.

Puzzle 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Puzzle 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Puzzle 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Puzzle 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Solution to the puzzle pack: \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_