

Solution: Dream Weaving

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This puzzle has three steps: **Crossword, Construction, Extraction**

Crossword

Each crossword clue has two parts. The two parts clue different words that may at first seem inconsistent. Looking at the strips on the Weft page, you can see that some of the blanks have dots and dashes filled in. This, along with the SOS in the flavor text, indicates that the crossword answers should be written into the blanks in Morse Code. As it turns out, the two answers to each crossword clue are identical when written in Morse code without spaces:

Crossword Clue Answers

Warp

- | | |
|-------------|--------|
| 1. LI, LEE | .-.... |
| 2. TOA, MMA | ----.- |
| 3. SO, IAM | ...--- |
| 4. AMA, JET | .---.- |
| 5. SW, SAT |-- |
| 6. NY, KAT | -.--.- |
| 7. REN, LN | -.--. |
| 8. TMNT, OK | ----.- |

Weft

- | | |
|---------------|---------|
| 1. UNIT, EWEU | ..---.- |
| 9. URN, EARN | ..--.- |
| 10. LOT, EXO | -.---- |
| 11. AIL, REED | -.---.. |
| 12. HOT, SAO |--- |
| 13. EDGE, RAD | -.--.. |

For each crossword clue, solving either the first half or the second half is enough to complete the puzzle. Solving both halves helps to confirm the answers.

The Warp answers get written into the columns on Page 1, like answers to Down clues in a standard crossword. The orientation of the dashes does not matter.

The Weft answers get written into the horizontal strips on Page 2. The strips need to be numbered 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 based on the answer that fits in each strip. The answers must be consistent with the dots and dashes that are already present.

Construction

The next steps are to cut straight slits in Page 1 and to completely cut out the strips on Page 2. Based on the puzzle title “Weaving” and the use of “Warp” and “Weft” instead of Down and Across, the next step is determined to be weaving the strips from Page 2 into

the “loom” formed on Page 1.

The horizontal strips get woven into the loom in numerical order from top to bottom. This yields a puzzle that follows standard crossword puzzle numbering rules.

Admittedly, one does have two options when weaving the strips. Does the first Weft strip start over or under the first Warp strip? There is a small hint that the dots and dashes printed onto Page 2 should go into the back of the weave (not visible after weaving). In this way, the information provided by the printed dots and dashes does not actually give away any of the final answer. However, this is just a small clue for the lucky few who figure it out. Without recognizing that hint, it’s safe to try one weaving parity and simply forge ahead!

Extraction

Based on the flavor text “feel his way to a solution,” think about Braille as an extraction mechanism. Notice that the final woven mat is 6x8, so it is compatible with two rows of Braille letters. The dots from the Morse Code are now Braille dots and can be read left-to-right, top-to-bottom to yield eight characters.

If the first Weft strip starts OVER the first Warp strip, it reads:
OTHERWAY

This suggests trying the other option for weaving:

If the first Weft strip starts UNDER the first Warp strip, it reveals the solution:
PUNKROCK