

# SOLUTION TO:



This is a dropquote puzzle with a gentle twist: before solving, you first need to order the five sets of four columns and position them properly over the grid of blank squares. (Within each set, the columns are already in order.) You can do this unambiguously just by counting white squares in each column.

				E		A	K			A			E	E		C		E	
	F	A	A	F	A	E	K		C	E	C	D	H	L	F	E		M	
	O	A	L	H	B	L	O	I	F	E	H	I	I	N	G	I	E	S	E
E	S	F	N	M	L	M	R	S	M	R	L	L	S	N	S	I	R	T	H
Y	S	I	P	T	O	S	S	T	P	W	O	T	U	O	T	M	T	Y	S

Once you have done that, there are a few different places to start. Two of the three-letter words could be THE, and indeed both of them are. The second of these is preceded by a two-letter word which really has to be OF. The other two letter word has to be AN or IN. The column with only two letters (EY) gives you either \_\_Y and \_\_\_\_E\_, or \_\_E and \_\_\_\_Y\_. The latter of these really has no possibilities for the six-letter word, so it must be \_\_Y and \_\_\_\_E\_, and a little more looking suggests really only SKY for the three-letter word. Now you have THE SKY in the second row, and it is not a great leap to see FROM THE SKY and indeed even FALLING FROM THE SKY. From that point, the grid practically fills itself in. The solved dropquote is:

		A		C		E		E	A	K			E	E	
	C	E	C	E		M		F	A	E	K		F	A	A
I	F	E	H	I	E	S	E	H	B	L	O		O	A	L
S	M	R	L	I	R	T	H	M	L	M	R	E	S	F	N
T	P	W	O	M	T	Y	S	T	O	S	S	Y	S	I	P

I	C	E		C	R	Y	S	T	A	L	S		F	A	L	L	I	N	G	
		F	R	O	M		T	H	E		S	K	Y		I	N		S	O	F
T			W	H	I	T	E		F	L	A	K	E	S		A	D	U	L	T
		M	A	L	E		M	E	M	B	E	R		O	F		T	H	E	
S	P	E	C	I	E	S		H	O	M	O		S	A	P	I	E	N	S	

This is a two-part clue: ICE CRYSTALS FALLING FROM THE SKY IN SOFT WHITE FLAKES clues **SNOW**, and ADULT MALE MEMBER OF THE SPECIES HOMO SAPIENS clues **MAN**. So the answer is **SNOWMAN**.