

# Solution: *The Death of Captain Hook*

Author: James Douberley

This puzzle was presented as a single sheet with characters and quotes, as well as a bunch of homemade tombstones nearby. The epitaphs on the stones could be matched to the characters (primarily by their occupations), and ordered by the number of years they were alive (unique 41-50). The underlining of DEATH in the title was meant to indicate that it was a keyword, and in fact every tombstone contained the word death. This, combined with the fact that the number of words in the tombstone matched the number of letters in the character's quote, indicated that solvers should index into the quote by the location of the word death. Doing so yielded the answer: ITCHY SCALP, which is what caused the of death of Captain Hook.

Tombstone	Ordering Data	Age	"Death" index	Occupation	Character	Quote	Letter
We mourn our pal's early death, that master of dissection, nicked by his own scalpel, killed off by the resulting infection.	1643-1684	41	6	Doctor	BF Pierce	"I'm trying to fight scurvy."	I
Even while alive, Her career just wasn't making it, Her death itself a tragedy, Onlookers thought she was faking it.	1671-1713	42	11	Thespian	Jenna Maroney	"All the pirates adore me."	T
He met death too soon, His brilliance we now lack, He made a device to reach the moon, but no way of travelling back.	1595-1638	43	3	Inventor	Emmett Brown	"Yachts also do not need roads."	C
In death he's little more, than ashes on a shelf, he toiled to feed the world, but forgot to feed himself.	1612-1656	44	2	Chef	Chef	"Children, don't touch that."	H

(Continued on next page.)

Tombstone	Ordering Data	Age	"Death" index	Occupation	Character	Quote	Letter
Our amigo has met his death, He's jamming now in heaven, He blew his eardrums out, When his amp went to eleven.	1702-1747	45	6	Rocker	Scott Pilgrim	"Really need to pee out here."	Y
Rest in Peace our friend, He's taken his last breath, Terminated by a rogue splinter, You could say he was board to death.	1643-1689	46	22	Carpenter	Carpenter	"Grog goes well with oysters."	S
RIP our chum, Whom death has found today, When Casper wasn't so friendly, Our pal became the prey.	1589-1636	47	5	Ghosthunter	Egon Spengler	"Don't cross the swords."	C
Nobody mourns her passing, in fact it's anything but, she kicked it grading papers, it was death by paper cut.	1620-1668	48	17	Teacher	Edna Krabapple	"Swab these chalkboards."	A
Death was always impending, That's just what he would get, We knew when he wrote that ending, Team Jacob would be quite upset.	1589-1638	49	1	Author	Richard Castle	"Like I said, they're harmless."	L
Now a pile of bones, Your death came quick old chap, No Lara Croft or Indie Jones, Beat by your own mouse trap.	1651-1701	50	7	Archaeologist	Ben Gates	"At last, people with new maps."	P