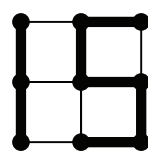# One if by Land

by Jenny Gutbezahl and Kevin Wald

Every subpuzzle yields a nonrepeating sequence of digits in the range 1–6; if you match the digits 1–6 to the six Braille dots (in the order shown by the subpuzzles on the first page) each sequence of digits then corresponds to a Braille letter. The solutions to the subpuzzles are as follows:

1. The left-hand clues yield USE, TOOTH, SCENT, REEF, QUARTZ, PIQUE, OAR, NIGHT; the right-hand clues yield QUARTS, CENT, PEAK, KNIGHT, EWES. The left-hand answers that do not have homophones on the right are TOOTH, REEF, OAR, which is homophonous with **2, 3, 4 → S**.

2. The clues yield PEET, POET, POUR, NEET, POUT, FOUR, which can be arranged into a "word ladder" (a sequence of words where each is derived from the previous one by changing one letter) and entered into the grid as shown. The bottom spells FOURTEEN, that is, **14 → C**.

3. The sequence shown is 1^1, 2^2, 3^3, 4^4, and thus continues with $5^5 = $ **3125 → R**.

4. Numbering the rules R1 through R4 and labeling the dots and segments as shown, we can reason as follows: The lit segment from R2 must be q or t (to obey R3 for G) but if it were t then q and r (by R2) and u (by R1) would be unlit, disobeying R4 for t. Thus, q is lit and o, r, and t unlit, so p and u (by R1) and l (by R4) are lit. Then s is lit (by R4 for u), so n is unlit (by R3 for F), so k is lit (by R3 for C), so j is unlit (by R1), so m is lit (by R4 for k). Thus, the lit segments are those highlighted in the second diagram, which form the number **15 → E**.

5. The missing word is "One" — that is, **1 → A**.

6. The pairs of numbers, translated numerically into letters, form four state abbreviations (KY, MT, IL, AZ), and the capitals of these states fit into the blanks before them, yielding F(R)(A)NKFORT, HE(L)(E)NA, SPR(I)N(G)FIELD, and P(H)OENIX. The parenthesized letters spell RALEIGH, the capital of NC, which numerically is **14 3 → M**.

7. The "lyric" presented consists of lyrics from three songs (by U2, by Metallica, and from *A Chorus Line*, in order) all titled "One" — that is, **1 → A**.

8. Revere meets Redcoats at 21:15, 21:45, 22:15, 22:45, 23:15, and (sixthly) at **23:45 → T**.

9. Since E * IN = IN, E = 1. So O * IN - M * IN = 100, so IN is a two-digit factor of 100 with no "1" digit, and is thus 20, 25, or 50. Since O + N ends in I, N ≠ 0, so IN = 25; then O + 5 ends in 2, so O = 7, so M = ON / IN = 75 / 25 = 3, and MAIN = IN * EMO = 25 * 137 = **3425 → T**.

10. The clue answers are: 1. SPLASH (S{oa}P + LASH); 7. RELAID (DIALER, reversed); 8 TEENSY (TEENS + Y); 1. SERF (SURF homophone); 2. PIECE (PEACE homophone); 3. AHAB (AHA + B); 4. STIES (S + TIES); 5. GLUE (LUGE anagram); 6. EDDY (double definition). The unclued entries are EIGHT CUBED, that is **512 → H**.

11. The answers to the clues can be entered both across and down, as shown; when this is done, the middle row and column both show AREA w/ UFOS, which clues **51 → E**.

12. The letter sequences anagram, respectively, to FIXING, ZEPHYR, JOTTED, and QUILTS; the circled letters then anagram to THREE DIGITS OF PI, that is, **3.14 → M**.

Taking the letters in the order of the puzzles yields the solution: **SCREAM AT THEM**.

Two if by Sea

by Kevin Wald

In each sentence, one word must have a fish inserted (perhaps with added spaces and/or punctuation) so that the sentence still makes sense; when this is done properly, every fish will be used exactly once, and each modified sentence on one side will contradict a modified sentence on the other side. The pairs of contradictory sentences are as follows:

We should get rid of every easily-led de**COD**er.
The government needs gui**DAB**le experts who crack ciphers.

Mar**GAR**ine samples must be warmer than Wesson, say.
You need to coo**K OI**l and chill its solid counterpart.

Name-brand items are coming from China and Mongolia, full of ink and al**COHO**l.
Man**CHU B**ic pens do not contain distilled spirits.

Our nation is being deluged with to**FU GU**ns of brass-playing lingerie enthusiasts.
You rarely see people with tu**BAS, S**lips *and* weapons that fire bean curd.

No one has offered Mr. Izzard wine barrels or su**PER CH**its.
Many of us have tossed a terrific voucher or ca**SK AT E**ddie.

Let us astonish our college graduates and s**CAR P**eers.
It is wrong to damage noblemen or s**TUN A**lums.

Having that pos**H AD DOCK**ed will enhance the image of the potato dish Mr. Baba adds dairy product to.
This high-class commercial will sell mas**H ALI BUT**ters just fine with no trimming.

If the rodents from the underworld have a sur**CHAR**ge, we are all doomed.
We can safely tack an extra fee onto the rat**S HAD**es once contained.

The qua**SAR DI NE**ver mentioned is a point of contention among Mexican cattlemen.
Only a reference from Prince Will's mum could get people on a r**ANCHO VY**ing over an extremely distant celestial object.

Anyone who con**SOLE**s a French novelist or English poet must be punished.
We all ought to comfort the great Hu**GO, BY**ron, et al.

Young women have often thawed upon seeing that Bo**SC ROD**ney had.
Mr. Dangerfield's pear is not responsible for any las**S MELT**ing.

In each pair, the two fish have the same length; also, in each pair, either the GOP fish contains an R or the DEM fish contains a B — "briefly" exhibiting the "color" (Red or Blue) appropriate for its side — while the other contains neither R nor B. Matching up the fish in each pair letter by letter, and using the R or B to "point out" the corresponding letter in the other fish, we get the following:

R-fish pairs, ordered as per the GOP side: GA**R**/KO**I**, CA**R**P/TU**N**A, CHA**R**/SHA**D**, PE**R**CH/SK**A**TE, SA**R**DINE/AN**C**HOVY, SC**R**OD/SM**E**LT.

B-fish pairs, ordered as per the DEM side: CHU**B**/COH**O**, **B**ASS/**F**UGU, HALI**B**UT/HADD**O**CK, GO**B**Y/SO**L**E, DA**B**/CO**D**.

So the answer is **IN DACE OF OLD**.

Three if by Flagship

by Eli Barrieau

One possible way to deduce the positions of all of the stars is as follows (in the following, columns are lettered *a–j* left to right, and rows are numbered *1–10* top to bottom):

1. By Clue 3, *a1, b1, d1, e1, f1, g1, h1, i1, j1, c2*, and *c3* are empty, and by Clue 9, *a8, a9*, and *a10* are empty.

2. The star mentioned in Clue 1 can only be at *j10* (*i1* and *a10* are empty, and any other location would prevent Vantage Point 1 seeing 17 empty squares). Thus, by Clue 1, *i2, i3, i4, i5, i6, i7, i8, i9, b10, c10, d10, e10, f10, g10*, and *h10* are empty.

3. By Clue A, since column *i* is empty and column *j* is not, *h* must be the other empty column, so *h2, h3, h7, h8*, and *h9* are empty. So the stars Vantage Point 4 sees are to its right at *j4* and to its left at either *d4, e4, f4*, or *g4*, and the latter implies that Vantage Point 6 sees a star to its right, so by Clue 6 *a4* and *b4* are empty.

4. Column *j* now has two stars (at *j4* and *j10*), so by Clue E, *j2, j3, j5, j6, j7*, and *j9* are empty.

5. The only square adjacent to Vantage Point 7 that it can't see and that is not known to be empty is *c8*, so by Clue 7 there is a star there, and by Clue B, *b7, c7, d7, b8, d8, c9*, and *d9* are empty.

6. To let Vantage Point 2 see to the bottom of the swath *f7, f8*, and *f9* must be empty, and to let Vantage Point 5 see ten empty squares *e8* and *g8* must be empty. Thus, the two stars Vantage Point 10 sees are at *e9* and *g7*.

7. The two stars Vantage Point 2 sees must now be to its left, at *e6* (so *e5, f5*, and *e7* are empty by Clue B), and above it, at *f4* (so *e3, g3, e4*, and *g4* are also empty by Clue B). We now know the two-star columns and row from Clue A are column *e*, column *j*, and row *4*, so to avoid having others *f2, g2, a6*, and *b6* must be empty, and to avoid having three stars in a column or row *e2* and *d4* must be empty.

8. By Clue C, the left hole has another star touching it other than the one at *e6*, so there must be a star at *b5*, and *a5* is empty by Clue B and *b2* and *b3* are empty to keep column *b* from having two stars. So the second star adjacent to Vantage Point 6 is in *d3*, and *d2* and *a3* are empty to keep column *d* or row *3* from having two stars. Thus, the second star Vantage Point 9 sees is at *a2*, and we are done.

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
1	S	H	3	A	R	K	S	K	I	N
2	U	L	T	R	A	S	U	E	D	E
3	W	A	I	S	T	8	B	A	N	D
4	C	A	6	R	P	E	T	4	E	D
5	A	S			C	O			T	S
6	O	C			H	2			R	E
7	9	C	A	S	H	M	E	R	E	S
8	S	P	A	N	G	L	I	N	G	5
9	F	7	I	B	R	A	10	N	N	E
10	C	O	R	D	U	R	O	Y	1	S

Hence, the stars are at the locations shown here; the letters in these locations (read left to right and top to bottom) spell out the answer:
USED SHEARS

Four if by Sedan Chair

by Brie Frame, Ben Smith, and Joe Cabrera

Teams are assembling a decoder that when placed over the assembly instructions will reveal the answer. Seems easy enough. Unfortunately, the instructions are in Sverdish. Fortunately, you don't need to be fluent in a fictional foreign language to figure out how to assemble things.

Even more fortunately, page 4 contains a Rosetta Stone of sorts: a short paragraph written in both English and Sverdish. Translating this paragraph gives the solver several useful prepositions (*above*, *below*, and *to the right of*) and a few articles and smaller words (*to*, *the*, and *this*).

Additionally, the parts list on page 2 labels a few of the pieces. It is reasonable to assume that *keglär*, *cesär*, and *setär* are the names of shapes; though *flerk* is an adjective describing something that all the labeled shapes have in common, it might not be obvious yet what that is. (SPOILER ALERT: It's *large*. *Flerk* means *large*.)

The final given piece of information is that tape is called *blerfär* in the Sverdish language. Since almost all of the instructions begin with the word *blerfen*, the language aficionado might guess that nouns in Sverdish end in -*är* and verbs end in -*en*. It's a good thing that this guess is correct.

Between the given information, the included colored figures, and the set of Sverdish instructions, the solver can then work back and forth to figure out the rest of the translation and build a DECODER. The final instruction is to place the DECODER on page 3, where there is a mysteriously DECODER-shaped area in gray. Reading portions of words through the windows of the DECODER give the answer: **ADVANCES IN SOFAS**.
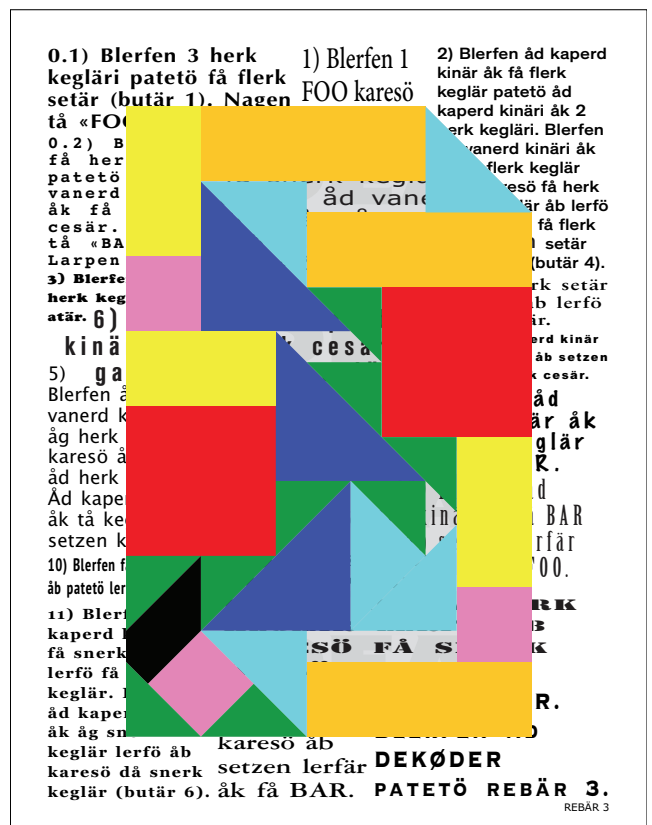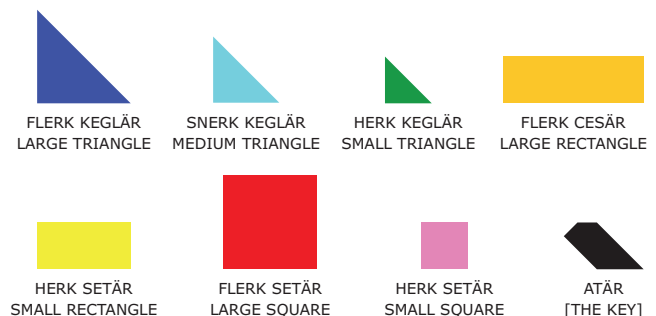
ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF SVERDISH INSTRUCTIONS:

0.1) Tape 3 small triangles to a large square (figure 1). Call this "FOO". Make 2.

0.2) Tape a small square to the short side of a small rectangle. Call this "BAR". Make 2.

0.3) Tape a medium triangle to the short side of a large rectangle (figure 2). Call this "BAZ". Make 3.

1) Tape 1 FOO left [the key] (figure 3).

2) Tape the long side of a large triangle to the long sides of 2 small triangles. Tape the short sides of another large triangle right a small triangle and below a large square (figure 4).

3) Tape the long side of a small triangle left and align top [the key].

4) Tape a small square below the [the key] and below a small triangle.

5) Tape the short side of another small triangle left and below the small square. The long side of this triangle align left.

6) Tape the long side of a small rectangle right a large square.

7) Tape the short side of 1 BAR right and align top of a small rectangle.

8) Tape 1 BAZ below the BAR. Tape another BAZ to the left of that BAZ (figure 5).

9) Tape the short side of a large triangle below a BAR.

10) Tape a FOO left and to bottom of a BAZ.

11) Tape the long side of a medium triangle below a large triangle. Tape the long side of another medium triangle below and left that medium triangle (figure 6).

12) Tape the long side of a small triangle below and right a medium triangle.

13) Tape the short side of a BAR left and align bottom of a FOO.

14) Tape a BAZ left and align bottom of a BAR.

15) Call this DECODER. Tape the DECODER to page 3.

FLERK KEGLÄR
LARGE TRIANGLE

SNERK KEGLÄR
MEDIUM TRIANGLE

HERK KEGLÄR
SMALL TRIANGLE

FLERK CESÄR
LARGE RECTANGLE

HERK SETÄR
SMALL RECTANGLE

FLERK SETÄR
LARGE SQUARE

HERK SETÄR
SMALL SQUARE

ATÄR
[THE KEY]

Four if by Yankee Clipper

<div align="right">by Joe Cabrera</div>

Teams are given a page of graphics printed in black, red, and blue inks along with a pair of standard red-blue 3D glasses.

The puzzle pieces need to be clipped apart on the black lines and assembled together as shown below to reveal this message in red ink, best viewed through the *blue* lens of the 3D glasses: **NOW CUT ON ONLY THE RED DASHED LINES & ARRANGE THE 11 LARGEST PIECES INTO A REBUS**
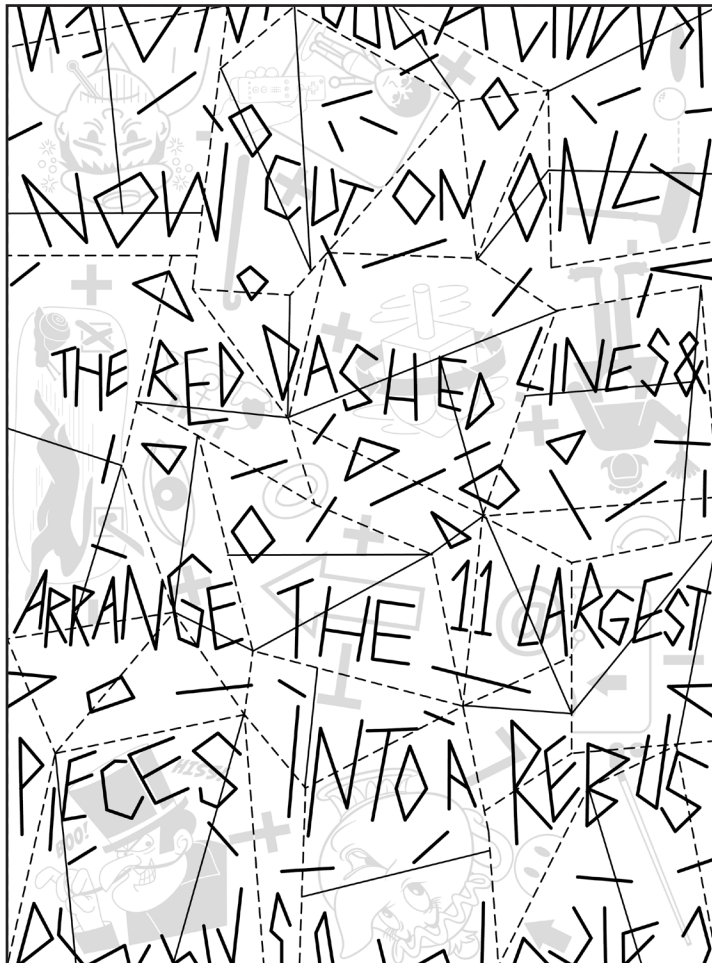
The pieces are then cut apart again on the red dashed lines and assembled into a rebus in blue ink, best viewed through the *red* lens of the 3D glasses:
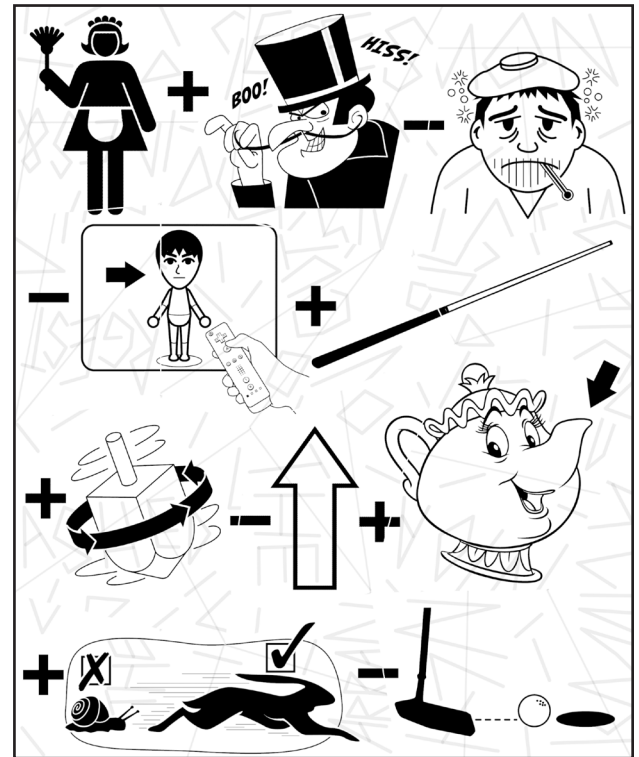
Solving the rebus reveals the final answer phrase:

<div align="center">

**MAID + VILLAIN – ILL
– MII + CUE
+ SPIN – UP + SPOUT
+ FAST – PUTT =**

ADVANCES IN SOFAS

</div>

Five if by Wheelbarrow

by Joon Pahk and Katherine Bryant
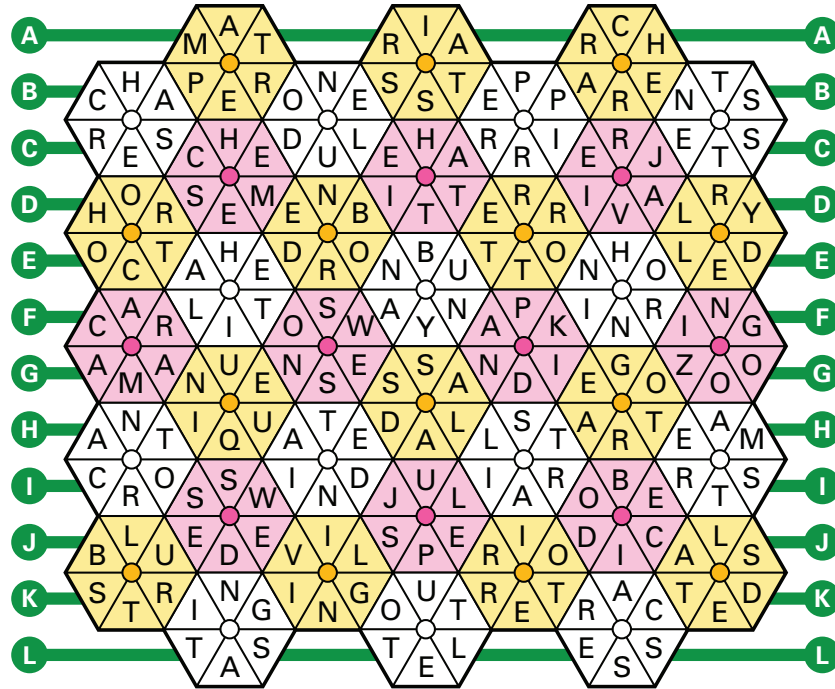
WHITE BLOOMS	YELLOW BLOOMS	PINK BLOOMS
Drink after an earlier drink **CHASER**	Mesh (with) **TAMPER**	Make evil plans **SCHEME**
Small lump of tissue **NODULE**	They come in flights **STAIRS**	Oscar winner McDaniel **HATTIE**
Jack tie ____ **RIPPER**	Bow wielder **ARCHER**	Bardem of *Skyfall* **JAVIER**
Arterial inserts **STENTS**	Group of people **COHORT**	One of a mariachi's pair **MARACA**
Rock salt **HALITE**	They made Elmer's glum products **BORDEN**	Attaches with thread *(2 wds.)* **SEWS ON**
Paul of legend **BUNYAN**	Cad **ROTTER**	Steal a lot **KIDNAP**
Intrude *(2 wds.)* **HORN IN**	*Grease* high school **RYDELL**	Seeping **OOZING**
Synagogue singer **CANTOR**	Line **UNIQUE**	People from Stockholm **SWEDES**
Hoed for questioning **DETAIN**	Leafy lunches **SALADS**	Minty drinks **JULEPS**
Hiking paths **TRAILS**	Tailor for *(2 wds.)* **GEAR TO**	Top of a dress **BODICE**
Creek **STREAM**	Says suddenly, with "out" **BLURTS**	
Filling completely **SATING**	Not dead **LIVING**	
Place to plug in **OUTLET**	Violent protestor, perhaps **RIOTER**	
Tenser stroke **CARESS**	On the docket **SLATED**	

In seven of the bloom clues, one letter must be changed before the clue-answer pair makes sense. Ordering them from top to bottom in the finished grid, they are:

CORRECT CLUE	ORIGINAL CLUE
Mes**S** (with)	Mes**H** (with)
Jack t**H**e ____	Jack t**I**e ____
They made Elmer's glu**E** products	They made Elmer's glu**M** products
Steal a **T**ot	Steal a **L**ot
L**O**ne	L**I**ne
Ho**L**d for questioning	Ho**E**d for questioning
Ten**D**er stroke	Ten**S**er stroke

The answer can be read off from the new letters and then the old letters, clue by clue: **SHE TOLD HIM LIES**.

Six if by Sundry

by Susan Glass and Jenny Gutbezahl

The top of the first page presents the names of songs with modes of transportation in the title. The mode of transportation is given as clip art. The other words in the title are simply enumerated. In order, the songs are:

BICYCLE Race

Big Yellow **TAXI**   Take the 'A' **TRAIN**   **CHARIOTS** of Fire   Don't Sleep in the **SUBWAY**

ROCKET Man   A **HORSE** with No Name   On the Good **SHIP** Lollipop   Love in an **ELEVATOR**   **MAGIC CARPET** Ride

Magic **BUS**

Yellow **SUBMARINE**   Leaving on a **JET PLANE**   **FERRY** 'cross the Mersey   **CAR** Wash   Banana **BOAT** Song

The rest of the first page and the second page gives a lyric from each song in words and clip art; in the normal version, a picture of the artist associated with the song is also given. For *Chariots of Fire*, which is an instrumental, no lyrics are given. Each lyric has a number next to it.

LYRIC	ARTIST	N	SONG TITLE
This land's the place I love	Gerry & the Pacemakers	1	**F**ERRY 'cross the Mersey
Fat-bottomed girls, they'll be riding today	Queen	2	B**I**CYCLE Race
To go to Sugar Hill way up in Harlem	Duke Ellington	2	Take the 'A' T**R**AIN
They took all the trees and put 'em in a tree museum	Joni Mitchell	4	Big Yellow TAX**I**
So kiss me and smile for me	John Denver	7	Leaving on a JET PLA**N**E
On a cloud of sound I drift in the night	Steppenwolf	3	MA**G**IC CARPET Ride
Your house is only another mile	The Who	3	Magic BU**S**
Come, Mr. Tally-man, tally me banana	Harry Belafonte	2	Banana B**O**AT Song
Sky of blue and sea of green	The Beatles	4	Yellow SUB**M**ARINE
Mars ain't the kind of place to raise your children	Elton John	5	ROCK**E**T Man
Livin' it up when I'm goin' down	Aerosmith	5	Love in an ELEV**A**TOR
[instrumental]	Vangelis	4	CHA**R**IOTS of Fire
Keep those rags and machines hummin'	Rose Royce	3	CA**R** Wash
There were plants and birds and rocks and things	America	2	A H**O**RSE with No Name
Don't stand in the pouring rain	Petula Clark	4	SUB**W**AY
It's a sweet trip to a candy shop	Shirley Temple	1	On the Good **S**HIP Lollipop

Indexing into the mode of transportation, and taking the letters in order that the lyrics are presented gives the solution: **FIRING SOME ARROWS**.

Seven if by Fire Truck

by Katherine Bryant

In order by photograph (left to right, top to bottom), the missing words from the gravestones are:

HOLLOWELL

BLACK

INTERR'D

GERRISH

GARDNER

THWING

NATHANIEL

USHER

LINDALL

NICHOLAS

GEORGE

INDICOTT

These match to the clues as follows:

- Begins with a woman's first name : **L**INDALL (LINDA)

- Becomes a word meaning "less clean" if you change the second letter to be the same as the first letter and rearrange all the letters: **I**NTERR'D (becomes DIRTIER)

- Becomes a conjunction if you delete all its repeated letters: **G**EORGE (becomes OR)

- Contains only the letters in a word meaning "unbroken" (used multiple times): **H**OLLOWELL (from WHOLE)

- Could be something you'd find on Sylvester's playground?: **T**HWING

- Can be anagrammed into two synonyms if you delete the second letter: **N**ATHANIEL (THIN and LEAN)

- Could be represented by the word DANDRUFF in a cryptogram: **I**NDICOTT

- If you add an A, can be anagrammed into the names of two Asian countries: **N**ICHOLAS (becomes LAOS and CHINA)

- Can be reversed to get a phrase meaning "tear scrap": **G**ARDNER (becomes REND RAG)

- Becomes an expression of dismay if you shift its first letter one back in the alphabet: **B**LACK (becomes ALACK)

- Consists of two pronouns in a row: **U**SHER (US/HER)

- Sounds like a word meaning "gaudy": **G**ERRISH (GARISH)

Reading the first letters in this order gives the answer **LIGHTNING BUG**.

Eight if by School Bus

by Ben Smith

From the mentions of standardized testing in the flavortext for this puzzle, solvers should deduce that this is what they need their Scantron form for.

This is a paint-by-numbers puzzle (25 × 5 for hard teams, 15 × 5 for normal teams). Once solvers have correctly filled in the bubbles on the test form, the filled in sections should resemble a picture of … nothing in particular.

That's because each row is meant to be interpreted as its binary equivalent. Teams should deduce from the flavortext's reference to "negative space" that rather than using the black bubbles they filled in, they should use the empty spaces as binary ones. Converting each row to its corresponding letter of the alphabet will reveal the answer, **CRITICAL DENSITY**.

Hard version

Normal version

Nine if by UFO

by Kevin Wald

The Boston Massacre site marker, like the puzzle diagram, contains 13 wedges each divided into 7 ring sections. The inner ring sections (the inner three in sectors 9 and 10, and the inner four in all others) each contain one brick, and all the rest have two bricks; thus, the corresponding "ship counts" in the diagram have one or two digits, respectively. This information, along with the given ship counts and "ship destruction marker" colors, enables the solver to deduce all the ship counts and ship destruction numbers in the diagram. The deduction might run as follows (with each ring section denoted by (sector, minute), and with the ship destruction markers in each sector lettered a–f from the outside in):

1. Since we can't destroy more ships than exist, 1d = 0, 1e = 0, 1f = 0, 4f =2, 5e = 3, 5f = 2, 7e = 1, 7f = 1, 9f = 1, 12d = 2, 12e = 0, and 12f = 0.

2. Since (8, 3) has one digit, 8c = 11 and (8, 3) = 8 (so 8d = 2, 8e = 2, and 8f = 1). Also, that means 12c ≠ 11, so to give (12, 2) two digits 12c = 7 and (12, 2) = 10, and getting from there to (12, 0) requires that 12a = 8 and 12b = 7.

3. Since (1, 2) has two digits, 1c = 8 and (1, 2) = 10. So (as above) 1a = 8 and 1b = 7.

4. Similarly, to get down from (0, 0) to (0, 2), 0a = 7 and 0b = 7. That uses up all the 7's, so 4b, 4c, 4d, 5a, 5b, 8a, 8b, and 10c are all 3. So to get (4, 3) and (5, 3) to be one-digit numbers, 4a and 5c must be 10, so 4e = 1 and 5d = 2.

5. With both 10's used up, 11b = 6 and 11a = 8, using up the last 8. So 0c, 2c, 3c, 7c, and 11c are all 4 (since they span the "digit boundary"). Then (2, 2), (3, 2), and (7, 2) are less than 14, so 2a, 3b, and 7a are 9 and 2b, 3a, and 7b are 6.

6. With the 9's used up, 6a, 6b, and 6c must be 6, 5, and 5 to get to a one-digit (6, 3). Also, with (10, 3) = 15, 10d must be 6. The 6's are now used up, so 7d, 10b, 11d, and 11f are 2.

7. To get from (10, 0) to (10, 2) 10a = 5. To get from (9, 0) to (9, 5) 9a = 4, 9b = 4, 9c = 5, 9d = 5, and 9e = 5. To get from (10, 2) to (10, End), 10e = 4 and 10f = 5. The 4's and 5's are now used up, so all remaining black markers are 0 and all remaining dark gray markers are 1. We now have all the marker values, and can fill in all remaining ring sections.

The complete set of values is given in this chart. The values in the "End" (innermost) ring, when punctuated as in the diagram, say "4, 2 to 5; 5, 3 to 2; 8, 2 to 3; 10, 3 to 1." Taking each "x, y to z" to mean "The numbers in sector x from y min to z min," we get the number sequences 12-9-6-5, 9-19, 19-8, and 15-18-20; putting them all together and translating into letters gives the solution, **LIFE IS SHORT**.

	Sector 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
0 min	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
a	7	8	9	6	10	3	6	9	3	4	5	8	8
1 min	18	17	16	19	15	22	19	16	22	21	20	17	17
b	7	7	6	9	3	3	5	6	3	4	2	6	7
2 min	11	10	10	10	12	19	14	10	19	17	18	11	10
c	4	8	4	4	3	10	5	4	11	5	3	4	7
3 min	7	2	6	6	9	9	9	6	8	12	15	7	3
d	1	0	1	0	3	2	1	2	2	5	6	2	2
4 min	6	2	5	6	6	7	8	4	6	7	9	5	1
e	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	2	5	4	0	0
5 min	5	2	5	5	5	4	8	3	4	2	5	5	1
f	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	5	2	0
(End)	4, 2 to 5;		5, 3 to 2;		8, 2 to 3;		1		0, 3 to 1.				

Twelve if by Broom

<div align="right">by Kevin Wald</div>

Answers to the Plummeting clues are entered vertically downwards, starting in the appropriately numbered hexes; answers to the Descending Gradually clues are entered slanting downwards in locations the solver must determine. These two sets of answers, in clue order, are as follows:

Plummeting: 1. SCAMP / SERB; 2. QUASI / KOREA; 3. BURR / TAWNIER; 4. JAI / FUR / MYSELF; 5. SALT I / SOILS / RES; 6. FIRST / SOUVENIRS; 7. AIRMAILS / SAO / LAHR; 8. ONE-IRON / EASY / IGLOO; 9 & 10. DEFYING GRAVITY; 11. LOW-COST / BIRCH / KNOT; 12. ASSESSOR / HAI / IRAS; 13. TIC TACS / ARID / LIS; 14. STAIR / HTTP / NETS; 15. SET / FREEZE-DRY; 16. HEIR / ORLY / DIS; 17. IXNAY / ZAIRE; 18. VACUO / OENO.

Descending Gradually: SURF / ISLE; ODO / SITE / EXA; LATS / SHIV; MIAMI / VAYA / HILTY; QUITTING / BRATZ / YIN; ASTRO / USSR / CIDERS; ERIE / RIALTOS; BARFS / SRO; SONS / SNL / GINAS; ANEW / SCAT / INC; SIRI / YOS / ARROYO; PKWY / LEO IV / KRIS; CARUSOS / AGRA / INDIE; REELER / HOYT; BALSA / ONTO / STELAE; FIEF / CETI / FRAU; JAR / MRIS / SCHERZO; IHR / PEDRO.

The resulting grid is as shown.

The Descending Gradually clues whose answers cross the line are as follows:

Deep Space Nine's shapeshifter (ODO)

Once more (ANEW)

Where a liege held sway (FIEF)

Slangy greetings (YOS)

Injury detectors (MRIS)

Not unaware of (ONTO)

Giving up (QUITTING)

Resting place of Mumtaz Mahal (AGRA)

Old realm including Russia (USSR)

Directive preceding *con Dios* (VAYA)

**W**all-building Pope *(2 wds.)* (LEO IV)

Actress Gershon, et aliae (GINAS)

Neighborhoods with many theaters (RIALTOS)

"**D**ella and the Dealer" singer Axton (HOYT)

So the two types of magical item are DOWSING ROD and WAND.

As per 9 & 10 Plummeting, the "organic sources of magic" are Defying Gravity Gradually; that is, they are slanting upwards. They are, specifically, the three body parts PITUITARY, ILIAC ARTERY, and KIDNEY, boldfaced in the grid. The eight magical items "steeping" within them are Y's ("dowsing rods") and I's ("wands"), highlighted in the grid. Each Y points out the three letters to its northeast, northwest, and south; each I points out the two letters to its north and south. When these letters (shaded in the grid) are read treating the Defying Gravity Gradually direction as left-to-right, they spell the answer, **STICKS IN YOUR GIZZARD**.
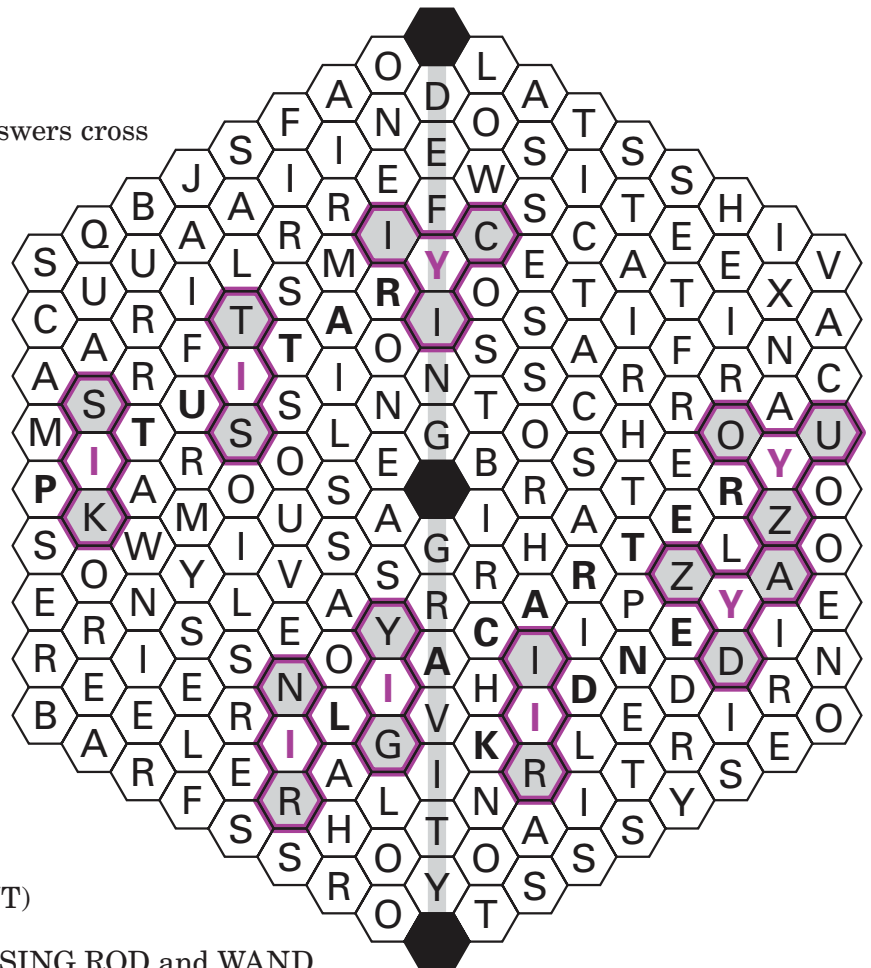
Thirteen if by Big Rig

by Kevin Wald

Each of the clued answers contains a palindromic sequence of five letters (for the Big, Big Entries) or seven letters (for the Big, Big, Big Entries); the answers are:

Big, Big Entries: KI**LOMOL**E; W**ORKRO**OM; FELIC**ITATI**ON; T**OO SOO**N; BRI**DE-BED**S; P**ELTLE**SS; A**POCOP**E; RE**LEVEL**ING; CO**AL PLA**NT; TEN**SENES**S; DI**VISIV**E; OVE**REXER**TS; B**EE GEE**S.

Big, Big, Big Entries: M**ONOTONO**US; MAK**E NO BONE**S; PAR**SON'S NOS**E; THREE-**MILE LIM**IT; CR**EME DE ME**NTHE; M**ISSISSI**PPI; NOT-**FOR- PROF**IT; AB**SENTNES**S; P**OSSESSO**R; CONEST**OGA WAGO**N; VEN**I, VIDI, VI**CI; IN**TERPRET**S; MO**BILE LIB**RARIES; P**ACIFIC A**RENA.

When each answer is entered in the grid, the palindromic sequence reads up and down, with its first/last letter in the main row, the second/next-to-last letter in the row above, and so on. The "raised letters" from one word are then copied, as indicated by the numbers, into boxes higher up in the grid; thus, the already-given letters allow you to place the Big, Big, Big Entries, the raised letters from those entries allow you to place nine of the Big, Big Entries, and the raised letters from *those* entries allow you to place the last four Big, Big Entries. Finally, the raised letters from those last entries supply the eight unraised letters (EGOMPLEX) of the unclued entry at the top of the grid, whose one raised letter is the C already given; this entry is the answer, **EGO COMPLEX**.

Fourteen if by Glass Elevator

by Jenny Gutbezahl and Katherine Bryant

First identify all the candies in the bag. Note that there are six each of Dots and Nerds, so these should be listed as plural. All other candies are singular.
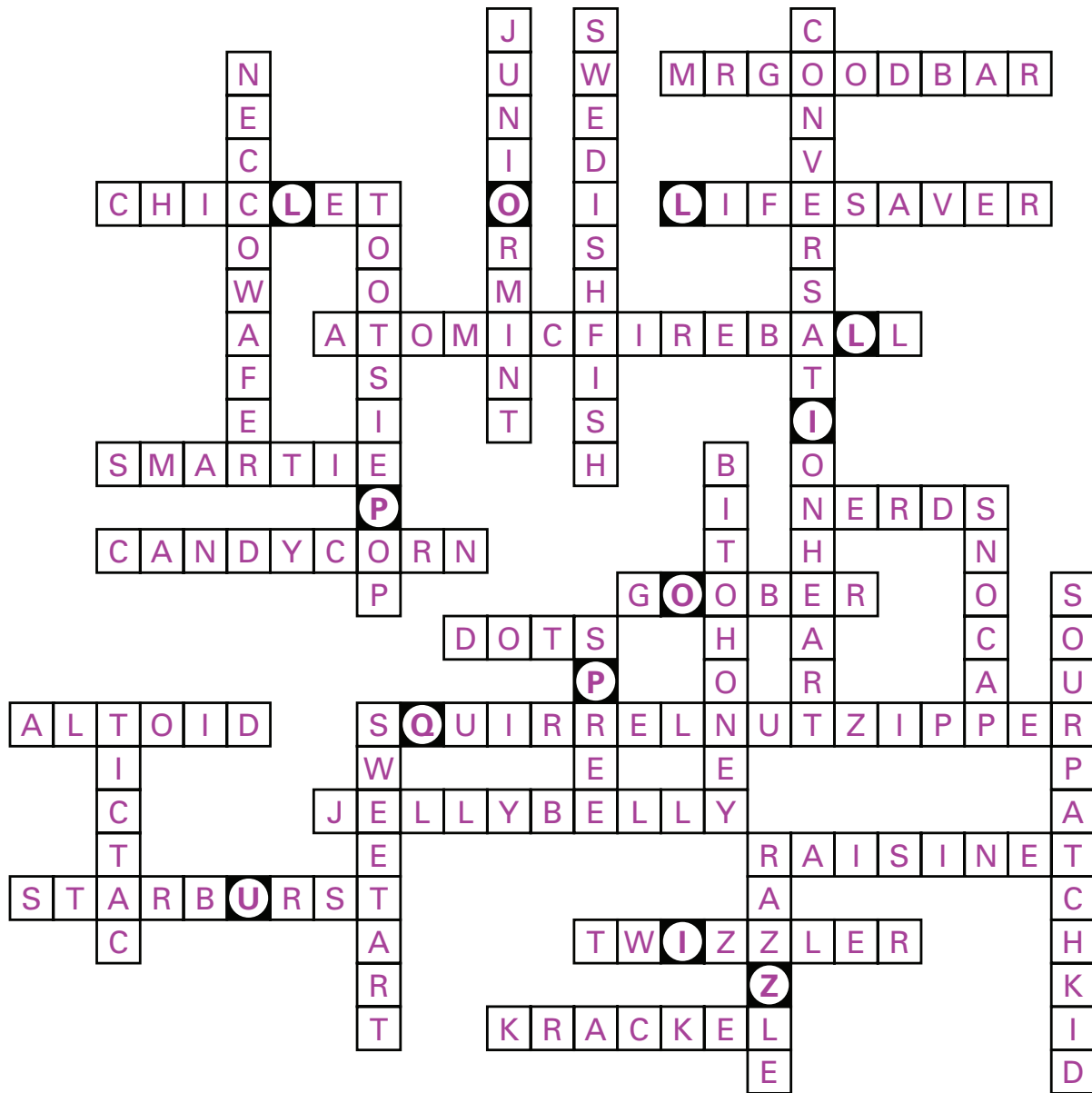
Read off the highlighted cells in order to get the solution **LOLLIPOP QUIZ**.

Seventeen if by Party Bus

<div align="right">by Eli Barrieau</div>

Each answer in the left column contains a Greek letter spelled out which, when removed, matches an answer in the right column:

Left		Right
O**PI**NION		MINOR
MINO**TAU**R		TABLE
MA**CHI**NE		MANE
MA**NU**RE		AD
MUTABLE		ONION
TI**BETA**N		DINED
A**PHI**D		MOE
ELLI**PSI**S		TIN
MO**XI**E		ELLIS
D**ETA**INED		MARE
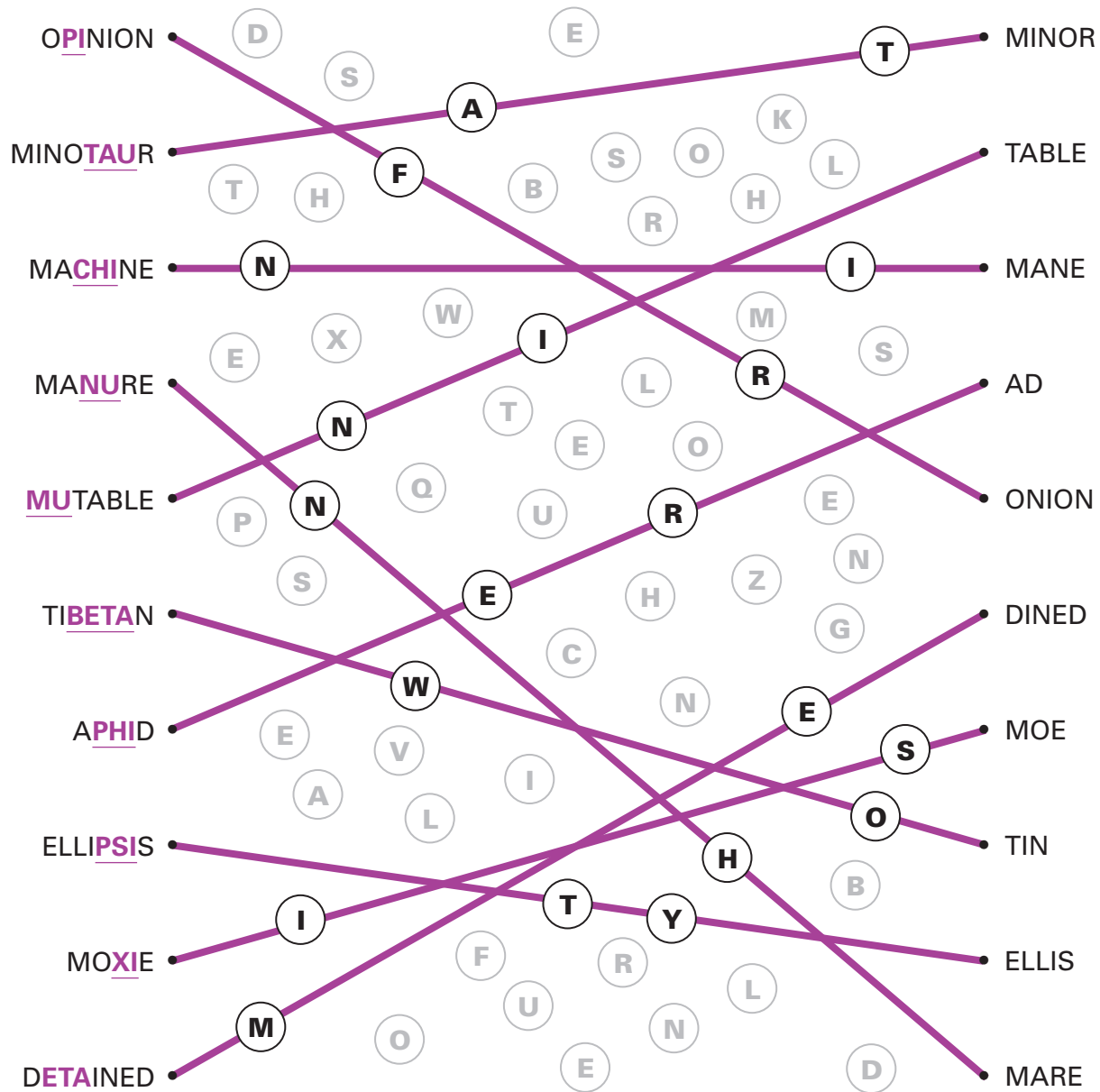
Putting the crossed letters in alphabetical order by the missing Greek letters yields:
WOMEN IN HIS FRATERNITY

Final Exam

by Team Phlogizote

Each puzzle can be matched with one of the 13 plaques near the fountain in the Paul Revere Mall. There are two clues to help you match the puzzle to the plaque: 1) the portrait in the upper left corner is in the same shape as the plaque, and 2) the italicized phrase in the poem is a synonym for a phrase on the plaque. For example, the Georges Seurat poem contains the italicized phrase *chez lui, quatorze*, and the first plaque contains the phrase "his residence, 14."

Once the plaque and phrase are identified, count up or down by the number in the puzzle's title (this must be determined by trial and error), including lines with only stars, to find a phrase with the same enumeration as the puzzle solution. For example, the Georges Seurat puzzle is entitled "Eight if by School Bus." If you count up 8 lines from "his residence, 14," you get to a line with the phrase ATTACHED HIMSELF, which has the same enumeration as the answer, CRITICAL DENSITY. There is exactly one letter that falls in the same place in both phrases, the "S" in the fourth place of the second word. Thus an "S" is extracted from this puzzle/plaque combination.

PLAQUE	PUZZLE	POEM PHRASE	PLAQUE PHRASE	N	ANSWER PHRASE	PHRASE ON PLAQUE
1	Eight if by School Bus: Georges Seurat	*chez lui, quatorze*	his residence, 14	8	CRITICAL DEN**S**ITY	ATTACHED HIM**S**ELF
2	Seventeen if by Party Bus: Samuel Adams	*Hello, brewski seller*	Salutation Tavern	17	WOMEN IN HIS FRATERN**I**TY	YEARS OF THE REVOLUT**I**ON
3	Five if by Wheelbarrow: Rose Kennedy	*made an oration in church*	preached a sermon	5	SHE TO**L**D HIM LIES	ITS BE**L**L WAS CAST
4	Fourteen if by Glass Elevator: Willy Wonka	*expert in candy canes*	Mint Master	14	LOL**L**IPOP QUIZ	BUI**L**DING THAT
5	Four if by Sedan Chair/ Yankee Clipper: Ethan Allen	*Arctic craftsman*	carpenter in the North	4	AD**V**ANCES IN SOFAS	GO**V**ERNOR HE LIVED
6	Two if by Sea: William Dawes	*alert Mr. Clemens*	warn Samuel	2	IN DAC**E** OF OLD	HE ROD**E** IN THE
7	One if by Land: Paul Revere	*Laurel of fame*	Stanley	1	SC**R**EAM AT THEM	PA**R**CEL OF LAND
8	Six if by Sundry: Phileas Fogg	*folks in Bombay*	Indians	6	FIRING **S**OME ARROWS	SAMUEL **S**HAW ROBERT
9	Three if by Flagship: Betsy Ross	*fabric's parent*	Father of Cotton	3	US**E**D SHEARS	LI**E**S BURIED
10	Thirteen if by Big Rig: John Hancock	*fornication*	sex	13	EGO CO**M**PLEX	HIS RE**M**OVAL
11	Twelve if by Broom: Glinda	*Dorothy, savior of Oz*	gale	12	STICKS IN **Y**OUR GIZZARD	RECTOR OF **Y**ALE COLLEGE
12	Seven if by Fire Truck: Ben Franklin	*If the U.S.*	provided America	7	LIGH**T**NING BUG	POLI**T**ICAL AND
13	Nine if by UFO: Crispus Attucks	*fight between planets*	World War	9	LIFE IS S**H**ORT	CALL OF T**H**EIR

Doing this with all 13 puzzles and plaques gives the final metapuzzle solution: **SILL VERSE MYTH**.