

DOUBLE-CROSTIC NO. 186

by Thomas H. Middleton

Instructions:

If you've never solved one of these puzzles, it will probably look much more difficult than it actually is. If you can answer only a few of the WORDS correctly, you're on your way to solving the puzzle. Fill in the numbered blanks of all the WORDS you can guess and write the letter of each numbered blank in its correspondingly numbered square in the diagram. The letters printed in the upper-right-hand corners of the squares indicate from what WORD a particular square's letter comes.

The diagram, when filled in, should read as a quotation from a published work. The dark squares are the spaces between words. If there is no dark square at the end of a line, a word may carry over to the line below.

The first letter of each WORD, reading down, will spell the name of the author and the title of the work from which the quotation is taken.

You should find yourself seeing words and phrases taking form in the diagram; so you can work back and forth, from WORDS to diagram and from diagram to WORDS, until the diagram is filled in.

1	E	2	V	3	P	4	Q	5	G		6	U	7	W		8	A	9	U	10	W	11	V	12	O	13	R	14	Z	15	Z ¹	16	T					
17	C					18	R	19	Y	20	G		21	I	22	A	23	K	24	Y		25	Z ¹	26	D		27	X	28	U	29	T						
30	L	31	R	32	V	33	T	34	P			35	Z	36	G	37	M			38	Y	39	O	40	K		41	S	42	Z ¹	43	I	44	W				
45	D	46	A	47	X	48	M	49	Y	50	U		51	G	52	Z ¹	53	K			54	Q	55	Y	56	N	57	O	58	U		59	E					
60	S	61	Z ²	62	U			63	I	64	H	65	U			66	R	67	A	68	L	69	Z ²		70	R	71	Z	72	Q	73	B	74	D				
75	S	76	E			77	P	78	T	79	I		80	S	81	L	82	F	83	P	84	V		85	Y	86	D			87	N	88	J					
89	Z ¹	90	O	91	I			92	W	93	Z ²		94	Y	95	B	96	F			97	U	98	W	99	Z ¹	100	C	101	J	102	I	103	T				
						104	P	105	X	106	R	107	T	108	B	109	O	110	Z ²	111	S	112	C	113	D		114	X	115	T	116	O	117	F	118	G		
119	V	120	R	121	J	122	Z	123	L	124	Z ¹		125	D	126	U			127	U	128	C	129	B		130	V	131	T	132	E	133	F					
						134	N	135	G	136	D	137	Z ¹	138	H	139	F	140	P			141	C	142	L	143	F	144	Z ²		145	R	146	N	147	W	148	F
						149	B	150	Z			151	T	152	W	153	M	154	D	155	E			156	H	157	J	158	P	159	B	160	G		161	X	162	L
163	N					164	R	165	B	166	W	167	M	168	C	169	Q	170	T			171	J	172	F	173	H	174	Z	175	Q	176	O	177	N	178	U	
179	L	180	V	181	P			182	G	183	Q	184	X			185	R	186	S	187	T	188	Z ¹		189	B	190	S	191	N			192	Q				
193	O	194	K	195	X			196	X	197	L	198	W	199	Z			200	Z ¹	201	R	202	C	203	P		204	Y	205	S	206	O	207	H				
		208	Z ¹	209	B	210	F	211	V	212	G	213	U	214	K			215	Z ²	216	E	217	I	218	M	219	Q			220	C	221	R	222	U			
223	N	224	W	225	Z	226	G	227	Z ²			228	N	229	Y			230	P	231	M	232	C	233	G	234	Z ¹	235	O	236	R							

Answer to Double-Crostic No. 185 appears on page 58.

CLUES

WORDS

- A. Eldest of the Pleiades; Hermes's mother 8 22 46 67
- B. Deeply pitted, as a honeycomb 73 95 108 129 149 159 165 189 209
- C. Licentious or dissolute men 220 232 100 112 128 141 168 202 17
- D. Binding; fastening 26 45 74 86 113 125 136 154
- E. English philosopher (1588-1679; *The Leviathan*) 155 216 1 59 76 132
- F. Marked as with needle scratches; needle-shaped 139 143 172 210 82 96 117 133 148
- G. Type of overtime period in sports (2 wds.) 160 212 226 5 20 36 118 135 182 233 51
- H. Easily offended; sulky 64 138 156 173 207
- I. A zillion 217 21 43 63 79 91 102
- J. Found agreeable 88 101 121 157 171
- K. "Parthians, and _____, and Elamites" (Acts 2:9) 194 214 23 40 53
- L. Brittle white metallic element used in alloys and compounds 142 162 179 197 68 81 123 30
- M. Jogged; elbowed 48 153 167 218 231 37
- N. "I can call spirits from the _____," says Glendower (2 wds., *Henry IV, Part I*) 56 87 134 228 146 163 177 191 223
- O. Argentine romantic poet (1805-51; *La Cautiva*) 235 12 39 57 90 116 176 206 109 193

CLUES

WORDS

- P. Head over heels; six ways from Sunday 83 104 140 203 158 181 230 3 34 77
- Q. Intensities; raises the value of 169 183 219 4 54 72 175 192
- R. "And mar _____ bright, / That shone as Heaven's light" (2 wds.; Spenser, "Prothalamion") 106 164 185 201 236 70 221 120 13 145 18 31 66
- S. Clinging; gummed 205 80 190 41 75 111 186 60
- T. Cavalry group formed in 1898 (2 wds.) 115 131 16 103 78 29 107 151 187 33 170
- U. Prayers to God on behalf of others 6 62 127 50 58 97 65 213 222 9 28 178 126
- V. Palace of the Moorish kings in Granada, Spain 11 180 84 211 130 119 2 32
- W. "Now lies he there, / And _____ to do him reverence," says Antony (3 wds., *Julius Caesar*) 198 224 166 44 7 92 147 152 98 10
- X. Common cause of howling in a public address system 27 47 195 184 114 161 105 196
- Y. Tending to call up memories, feelings, etc. 55 19 229 49 94 38 85 204 24
- Z. Closely related or connected 35 150 174 122 225 71 199
- Z¹. Part of a prize fighter's training program 137 234 52 215 99 200 208 15 42 89 188 124
- Z². Sartre play (2 wds.) 110 144 61 93 14 25 69 227

I MUST APOLOGIZE to readers left dangling after two consecutive columns on my wife's and my preparations for the birth of our first child. The upshot is: Peter; 6 A.M., August 11; healthy; sweetly dispositioned; six pounds, 12 ounces at birth; and such an enthusiastic eater that he's already participating in America's favorite pastime, dieting.

I would have reported the results earlier except that, beyond the vital statistics, there seemed little to say. True, parturition is a staggering miracle. One stares with delight at the sudden perfection of this person in miniature. One wonders at his animal aptitudes: his talent for suckling, his ability to signal his needs. It is pleasing to observe his motor development, even while recalling that of all species, in this respect, man is the slowest learner.

The more resonant miracle, however—the development of awareness and of individuality—unfolds gradually.

Each day Peter better recognizes what affords him pleasure and pain. Like a computer, he proceeds by making choices between polarities—light or dark, hard or soft, wet or dry. Voluntary smiles (as opposed to gas-provoked smiles, young parents' fool's gold) are a response to the shock of recognition. The volatility of an infant's moods is a result of the novelty of all that he experiences. The world is a wildly various place, especially in comparison to the womb.

For me, the most compelling and endearing attribute of our newborn is his gaze. Peter's blue eyes, wide with amazement, seem to drink in every nuance of what he focuses on. The world through his eyes is wholly new, brimming with potential. An armchair might pick up and dance, a bouquet might bloom into a lady, the walls might suddenly spew symphonies (stereo is, after all, a strange notion). Judgments have yet to be made. What is lusterless to Peter's

parents may be splendid to him. An old stuffed toy that we would discard may be embraced by the baby as delightful.

One scarcely needs Freud to be persuaded of the importance of these first months to a child's psychological development. The child's mind is pristinely pragmatic: It seeks solutions to problems and sticks with them as long as they work. A neglected child, who finds that sometimes nothing works, may be imbued early on with the bitterness of frustration. Infancy is the cradle of optimism. I'd wager that most cynics, persons who "can't get no satisfaction" and assume the rest of the world shares their problem, might trace their gloom to their unanswered shrieks as infants.

One of the abiding debates in philosophy concerns man's inherent nature. Is man good, kind, sociable, etc., and made vicious by society, or is he born aggressive and antisocial, and in need of society to tame him? The answer, as any observant parent knows, is neither. Pragmatism is amoral. If a child finds he can solve problems either by aggression or by courtesy, he will behave accordingly. Man has no more inherent morality than a cow, no preconceptions, no predispositions. What he does have that distinguishes him from all other creatures is a curiosity that propels him to seek better solutions even to problems that have been more or less adequately solved. The goal of society should not be to encourage our innately decent natures or to restrain our innate nastiness. The goal of society, and of education, should be to prove to all those wide-eyed learners that virtue, however one defines it, works better than vice, that crime does not pay. A successful upbringing imbues these precepts so deeply that they become second nature, that they seem natural laws rather than well-learned lessons. That so many Americans today seem to lack all sense of wrongdoing, to think that wrong means getting caught, is a grim indictment of our guardianship of the young.

It will be some time before Peter is capable of wrongdoing. With a growing child, however, "some time" quickly evaporates into no time at all. Perhaps the greatest blessing of parenthood is the urgency it bestows on the future. We must care about tomorrow because tomorrow is where our son, for whom we wish everything the best, will live.

—Carll Tucker



"Three years in a minimum security prison and a fine of twenty thousand dollars, or 5 percent of the royalties from the book."