

SR Competition No. 33

Rewrite in part or in whole the story of:
The City Mouse and the
Country Mouse
Jack and Jill
Paolo and Francesca
Peter Rabbit
or Robin Hood
in the style of:

Jorge Luis Borges
Rex Reed
William Faulkner
Cosmopolitan magazine
Mayor Edward Koch
or Guy Davenport.

Entries for Competition No. 33 must be received by June 30 and the winners will be announced in the September issue. Send submissions to *SR* Competition No. 33, *Saturday Review*, 150 East 58 Street, New York, New York 10155. All entries become the property of *SR*.

Winners of No. 30

We called for imaginary horoscopes, and never have we witnessed such confusion of doctrine. Astrology must be the hometown of heterodoxy. One heresiarch from Newark, New Jersey (anonymity gladly granted) seethes with contempt for those who hold that the stars commence their control over our lives at the moment of birth. Any fool, according to this sage, knows that the crucial moment is the instant of conception. Woe is us. All that time wasted coaxing from Mother when, exactly, we popped into the world. Nonetheless, we are content to remain Gemini, however approximately. We are not, at least, Cow. Cow, according to Owen Stoon of Memphis, Tennessee, jumped over the moon only to remain stuck in the zodiac ("Avoid persons named Elmer").

Here are more shreds of intelligence from this contest. The most frequent verb in the annals of horoscopy is "avoid." E.g., "LIBRA: Avoid Dupois" (T. McGill, London, Ontario). The spelling of the words "Sagittarius" and "Aries" has been irrecoverably lost. The contempt of a generation of English professors has not obliterated the memory of Eliot's *Waste Land*: Madame Sosostriis, at least, survives. Of the many references to her we liked best a letter imagined by Anne P. Ward of New York, which reads in part:

Dear Mrs. Equitone...

...I bring the horoscope myself; one must be so careful these days.

Yours faithfully,
Edith (Mrs. George) Sosostriis

Speaking of poetry, we liked the 53-line poem submitted, with the doomed optimism of the typical Gemini, by Hyacinthe Hill of Yonkers, New York. Aside from its being hopelessly long and outside the rules, we loved it. It has (naturally) two titles—"Look at Me. I'm Gemini" and "Hi! I'm Gemini"—to accommodate the two possible pronunciations. Here is a sample:

I'm not alone. I have, within, my twin,
My alter self, my better half, my clone....
I ride a horse and end up in the gorse
From taking every road at once, of course.

Finally, we learned that zodiacal whimsy is more often attempted than achieved. Here are our winners:

First prize to Caryl McColly of Eagle Rock, California, who horoscoped every sign in the zodiac and then some. Into the usual syndicated guff on this non-topic, reader McColly seems to us to have placed the dagger very deftly, and then turned it. Here are samples:

GEMINI: Tendency is to shift the blame; don't forget: *You* are responsible for the unhappiness in the world. Try being a decent human being for a change.

LEO: Don't wear the madras print snood on the 8th, 17th, 23rd, and 27th, and avoid schools of barracuda on alternate Wednesdays. By late month most of your friends will have forgotten you, but be patient; a dead relative will try to communicate through the philodendron. Be careful; it may be a trap.

VIRGO: Very high-energy field this month; light bulbs explode when you approach. Fake a miracle or something. Around mid-month someone may try to poison your overcoat.

SCORPIO: Good time for self-pity. Hole up on the service porch and read back issues of *Prevention*. Your stock in Teflon catheters takes a downturn. Take care of details; the string you save could be your unraveling underwear.

Second prize to Jack Mahoney of Manchester, New Hampshire, whose entry exhibits the Babylonian gloom that marked many others as well:

GEMINI: Put your affairs in order. If you are not a church-goer, start; if you are, go more often. Sell your Krugerrands.

CANCER: Same goes for you.

LEO, VIRGO, LIBRA, SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS, CAPRICORN, AQUARIUS, PISCES, ARIES, and TAURUS: Sorry, gang. Sun goes supernova July 22.

Third prize to Lee Markey Carlson of Van Nuys, California, whose entry we liked well enough but whose penned comment at the bottom we cherish and prefer to print:

Always wanted to write horoscopes with a straight face. I am now a 72-year-old lady and am afraid this is my idea of a straight face.

Thanks, Mrs. Carlson. You bent our face very pleasantly with that note.

Puzzles

Literary Crypt No. 178

MAYBY WE CIRCLE C JUXOUB-

MWZH MAUGHAM WZ MWXY

UO MBUGSIY RAYZ WM WE

ZUM UGB MBUGSIY.

FUZ XCBNGWE

Wit Twister No. 190

The object of the game is to complete the poem by thinking of one word whose letters, when rearranged, will yield the appropriate word for each series of blanks. Each dash with a blank corresponds to a letter of the word.

To wretched _____ they are
reduced at last,

These noble remnants of the _____
_____ past;

While _____ who once
graced that dazzling court
Now limn the proletariat at sport.

A.S.

Answers next month

May Answers

Literary Crypt No. 177

The gallery in which the reporters sit
has become a fourth estate of the realm.
Macaulay

Wit Twister No. 189

sora, Rosa, soar, oars

Middleton Double-Crostic No. 219

Mark Twain: The Damned Human Race

From the pterodactyl was developed
the bird; from the bird, the kangaroo,
from the kangaroo the other marsu-
pials; from these the mastodon, the
megatherium, the giant sloth, the Irish
elk, and all that crowd that you make
useful and instructive fossils out of.

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

Middleton Double-Croctic No. 220

CLUES

WORDS

- A. One of Disney's Seven Dwarfs 4 8 35 131 22 41 65
- B. City on the Rhone, southeast France 68 91 102 175 120
- C. Castro's predecessor 124 145 150 184 190 199 34
- D. "What ___ I Rose Aylmer, all were thine" (2 wds. followed by WORD G; Landor, "Rose Aylmer") 84 89 99 106 114 156 192 12 48 55 71
- E. Flip 94 100 123 147
- F. One of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands 179 187 16 38 79 90
- G. See WORD D (2 wds.) 118 174 3 24 32 177 54 80 130 143
- H. Small, light automobiles; roadsters 158 169 27 109 127 161 15 50 62
- I. Excessive, pretentious 52 108 133 176 21 30 40 151 122
- J. Bishopric 153 163 173
- K. Mischievous prank 193 14 44 137 148 58 78 165
- 60 129 155 188
- L. Pursuit, business 64 144 159 20 73 119 126 136 168 154
- M. O.K., all right, satisfactory (2 wds.) 172 74 141 181 197 69
- N. Spat, tiff, row (comp.) 85 146 162 202 49 63

CLUES

WORDS

- O. Exalted expression of feeling, perhaps in blue 72 200 36 98 191 96 139 77
- P. All wet; out of line (2 wds.) 105 116 9 25 88 6 93
- Q. Quantity or number coming at one time 86 152 1 18 29
- R. Looker, peach, honey 31 67 103 37 82 132
- S. Vulgar, tawdry 110 189 97 104 111 17 2
- T. Ornament of loose threads 7 107 45 61 128 135
- U. Flower, flourish 142 160 121 42 81 115 59
- V. Summary, abstract; representative of the whole 182 194 43 10 178 39 26
- W. Woman who expresses excessive prudishness (2 wds.) 53 92 167 196 56 11 66 19 87
- X. Intimidated, overawed 28 180 186 157 183
- Y. West Indian republic 13 201 47 113 149
- Z. Machine-wreckers in England, 1811-16 75 125 164 171 140 46 138 198
- Z'. Sprightliness of wit; lively intelligence 5 83 101 117 51 185
- Z'. Chicken, jellyfish, coward 95 166 76 195 23 33
- 57 112 70 170 134