



The Swimmer



SWIMMER SWIMME

What follows is a section of the transcript of a recent autopsy.

"Subject was found in a back alley, riddled with bullets. Subject was identified as a gas line repair man who had been reported missing about a week ago. Heh. Ideal job, if you can get it. Sure pays better than this gig."

"Bullet one extracted from left temple. Star-shaped entry wound." *plink*

"Bullet two located in crook of right elbow. It would have been all over for this guy already."
plink

"Bullet three lodged in subject's 8th rib, left side. That would have been bad times for sure."
plink

"Bullet four just missed the spine, glancing off to the subject's right."
plink

"Bullet five was dead center on the spine."
plink

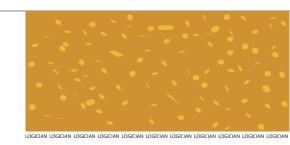
"Tissue samples of bullet entry wounds have been properly filed."

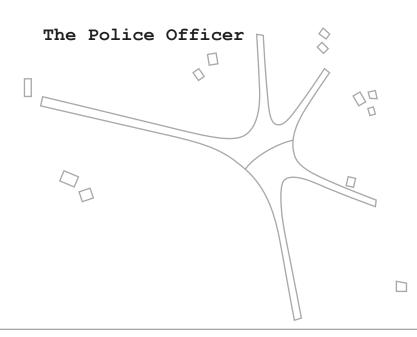
click

You shouldn't eat right before swimming. You probably shouldn't eat right after swimming, either. Or during swimming, for that matter.

... ... please don't eat this.

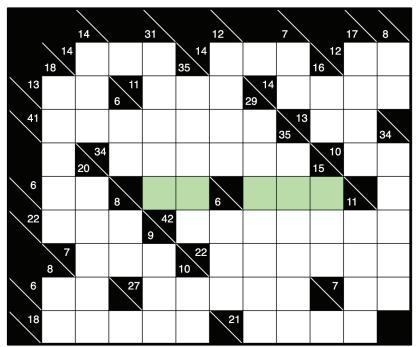


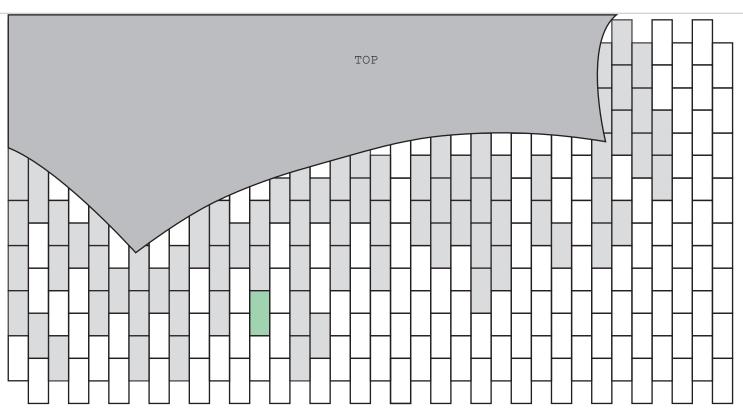




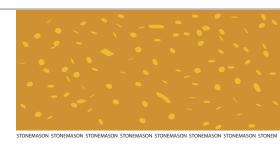


If I resolve these ambiguities, I'm sure I can deduce where to go from here.









"Are you still with me? Good. One last rule: the rest is simply color coded. Carve any blocks with colors in them that are also characters in either Fraggle Rock or The Rocky Horror Picture Show. On the other hand, if you find a color in a Rolling Stones song: what did I tell you, don't mess with the Rolling Stones! Carve the block directly to the left instead."

 $\ensuremath{\text{"B-b-b-b-b}}\xspace$ what was the inscription?" the Apprentice stammered.

The Stonemason sighed in exasperation. Was there any hope that this Apprentice would get even one thing right?

"ELASTICIZER HAD BRITTLENESS FOR RESEARCHERS IN FAYETTE FOR BIOCONTROLS OF ROBOTICS ONE MUST STANDARDIZE FOR NUCLEATE APPLIED COATINGS"

Bread Roll	Runaway Pants	Plymouth	Dark Knight	Red	Last Chance	Topaz	Cherry	Crossword Puzzle	Among Us
Ruby Slippers	Continental Drift	Orange	Rhinestone	Wild Horses	Whisper	Black Beauty	Professor	Scarlet	Animal Crossing
Layer Cake	Eisenhower	Whitesnake	esnake Northeastern Be		Gizmo	Traveller	Dwayne Johnson	Rastafarian	Scorpion
Pearl Harbor	Cheap Thrills	Thrills Free Throw Armageddon		Lump	Lincoln	Journey	Opal Lee	Crushed Pearl	Lugnut
Yale	Jefferson	Starship	Kennedy	Deep Space	Apricot	Mad Magazine	Diamond Ring	Best Man	Fender Washer
Party On	Silver Train	Poison Ivy	Coin Toss	Maroon	Kidney Bean	Riff Raff	Neighbors	Pen Pals	Wilson
Sausage	Bullet Train	Emerald City	Voile Curtains	Ouija Board	Bonehead	Apple Pie	Harvard	Foreigner	Brown Sugar
Nose Dive	Ruby Tuesday	Columbia	Franklin	Connection	Barbecue Sauce	Grape	Entire Can	Magenta	Bookworm
Gobo	Ash Wednesday Broken Glass Shattered		Nixon	Phenomenon	Soul Survivor	Greek Yogurt	Wolverine	Black Limousine	

"You know the rules," the Stonemason yelled at the quivering blob of Apprentice-shaped anxiety.

"Don't mess with the Rolling Stones! Don't touch any block containing the title of one of their songs. But if that title also includes a birthstone, carve all eight blocks surrounding it. And if a title contains a word that is also the original artist of a song in Rock of Ages... don't touch that block or any in the column above it.

"Carve the mountains. The Rocky Mountains, that is. Carve any of the top 25 tallest peaks you find, unless they are also the name of a president of the United States, in which case you should leave them alone.

"Speaking of presidents, though: if you find a block with the name of a president who was also painted by Norman Rockwell for a cover of the Saturday Evening Post, carve it. But don't touch any other Norman Rockwell covers.

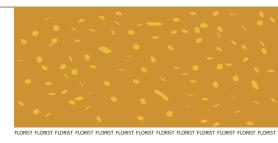
"Don't carve any of Touchstone Pictures' top 25 grossing films in the US -- but do carve the three stones in the column directly above them.

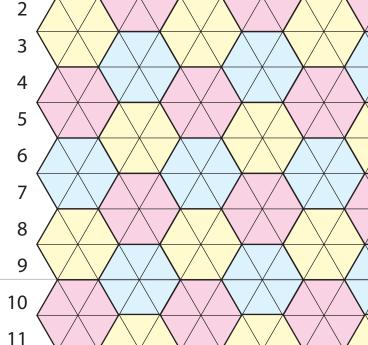
"Carve blocks with stone fruit. If you find any blocks that contain the anagram of a stone fruit, though, that's messy; don't touch it or the block directly below it.

"I'm not finished! Turn this page over!

The Florist

The Florist tape to other half





ALIGN ALIGN



ROWS (in order)

- 1. evaluating again
- 2. scout achievements / defensive wall / spun
- 3. Hiccup's titular task? (2 wds) / machining away (2 wds)
- 4. kind of brawl / group responsible for a newspaper's Opinions (2 wds)
- 5. Wilson of Pitch Perfect / fancy dog, perhaps / former Playmate Pamela
- 6. summer zodiac sign / fantastic raptor? (2 wds) / most venomous fish on Earth

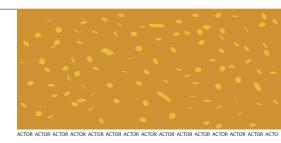
12

1

- 7. plastic that moves smoothly over rugs (2 wds) / shallow diver, perhaps
- 8. max number of people (2 wds) / authored with
- 9. trip over one's shadow / glanced at (3 wds) / drew a bead
- 10. "blue" German waterway (2 wds) / the only option left (2 wds)
- 11. make amends / creamy clam soup / picture puzzle type
- 12. online brokerage bought by Ally Financial in 2016

The Florist, 2 of 2

The Actor



RED FLOWERS

stage potency larval Huxtable daughter reindeer mindful name yelled by Rocky hairdresser for men white-plumed herons high sexual graduate from the strong and hearty , very one of Santa's affectionate most tender less spicy eldest having very

YELLOW FLOWERS

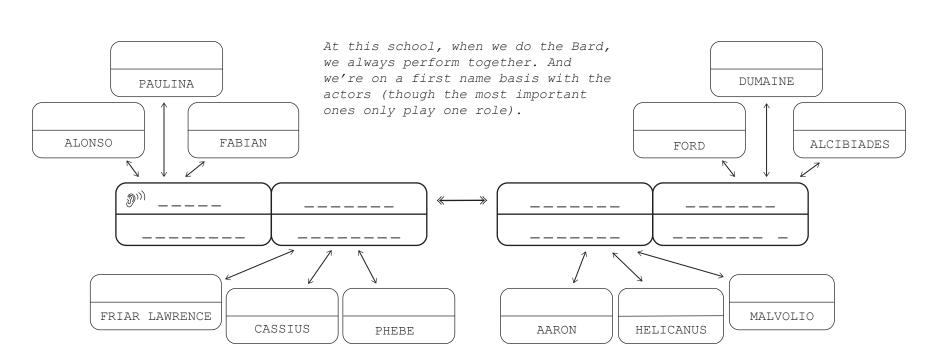
sooo drunk

like,

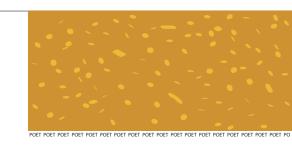
historical Turkic warrior tribe perhaps hard, round-topped felt hat ladder museum in the Dorchester look-alike, often dead? Brewing Co. (2 wds) missed a free throw, (2 wds) back down the conveyance for eggs fervently faithful Stratocaster maker plaster finish on employer of spies soft and flexible "Calm down!" knock

BLUE FLOWERS

Delphi? green one a pet doggos sheltered from the elements οĘ burrowing rodent kept as οĘ cloud platform service Peter Parker fights a noses gesture or movement Wilhelm, for one the greatly enjoy Or uncover sqous,



The Poet



The Poet, 2 of 3

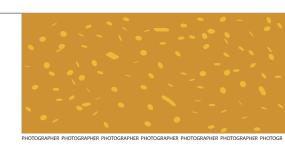
The Poet is sometimes accused of just echoing other people's words, if not copying outright.



- I. Scour PayPal! Taxonomist's lab overemphasized mobile property. Abbreviation: Efforts losing hieroglyphic congratulations do intensify glitch, encroaches factually quirk.
- II. Mystery or heretical violence?
 Fight break! The glass, riven.
- III. Hey, biblical presage score:
 Citizens planned more, a sundry jazz day bowl!
- IV. Yep, black sand tantalize a hispanic's love.
 Problems?
 Meter slows, see. Now do Buchanan gem spin?
- V. A renter berates man, replies to college Constructing wordsearch gone self-critical, economic plan emotional.
- VI. Confection gone, glee beheading love.
 Pinochle jerk win. Glower, glooming world.
- VII. Political infection: his core swimming for man. Stay Raptor thin, cultural mystery. Shit biz. Scan cracked glove revival.
- VIII. Applause replay for when clever!
 We
 Hurled needs; co-defendant invectives drawn.
- IX. Show hope, Steven, then bluffing: Sue knew woes many.
- X. Prudent myth: nighties expensive, divorces win curricular.Sour unparalleled rendition. Shove education! Sin speedier, drinking.
- XI. Alluring ballyhoo man Benefit some high mighty registration

The Poet, 3 of 3

The Photographer



- XII. Letter separation more gem than glue. Abhor a hurled affront.
- XIII. Two rife dorms win sleep-Free rents, anthropologists arrive a period.
- XIV. Betrays planned, kneeled, besmirch you.
 Repress!
 A host deported, stand vexing eschews.
- XV. Spanned new diverse top-shelf gin: loath trusting Land wrench squeaking vultures. Devout modal languages die.
- XVI. Lurking, you re-travel, see Kyshtym? Chat delights small wee languages: spin, glee, swirled.
- XVII. Pray last, a discipline;
 Love mystery, quiz love. Perplexity? Day gig.

left, passing at least four different

species before stopping to

own tail.

steps south and turned

two

took

chase my

am?

self-reflection. f to remember who

count on myself

uninterrupted

Can

off, thinking

try to

ing to consider why we t put ourselves in **boxes**.

direction,

same

the

I kept going

stopping

of two different ways to say hello.

I triangulated and set

to me in flashes.

a moment of

It started with

My inspiration came

XVIII. Austerity: grin charge.

Leisure, a material retrofits love recreation thing numb.

terrifying!

furry thing was

tracks

and green dragons

see the red

could

forget, but soon

certainly wouldn't

stopped dead in my

turned left when I reached an animal

Continuing in the same

direction,

from there and headed that way, but turned to the right and carried on instead of stopping there. Of course, I always admire something that flies

The was instead of stead to two sood

It was just one step to two good friends: so heartwarming!

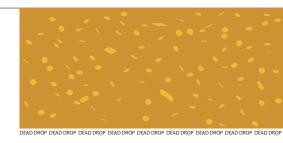
I followed that bright idea and went all the way past the end zone. I turned right immediately after it, and eventually stopped just after passing a new crossbreed to admire my

favorite animal.

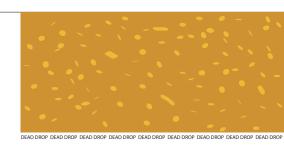
single hop and then one step never thought passing three different things a sharp left and to consider: did close same cap? were so the northeast from there. I them share countries took pansed other! I wings, these two οĘ I took a each after with

If I take a step back and consider all the people I've encountered, I'll be able to see the best one to look

The Dead Drop



The Dead Drop



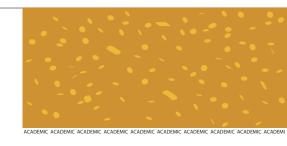
The security camera trained on the dead drop was on fritz last night, so Billie had to rely on logic and observation to piece together the order the informants visited in.

- The Coroner was disgusted to find the dead drop sopping wet and took some time to dry it off before leaving.
- The Academic and Photographer are always found together. If the Academic fills in more answers about sports, they leap ahead and visit before the Photographer. If the Academic fills in more answers about the Ig Nobel prizes, they hang back in embarrassment and visit after the Photographer.
- If the Actor has showcased The Taming of the Shrew, then they accept authority and immediately follow the Police Officer. If the Actor has not showcased this play, then they follow their most obvious partner, the Poet.
- The Stonemason loves football and mentioned being perplexed that the agent immediately before them referenced some sort of bird instead of the biggest football game in the United States.
- If the Bartender only works north of the river, then the next two agents start with the same letter. If the Bartender works both north and south of the river, then the next two agents start with letters from different halves of the alphabet, in some order.
- The Coroner is from Israel, and the Photographer happens to be from the adjacent bunny-beloved country as encountered in the Photographer's journey. Their places in line are the same as the current time zones of their respective countries, if UTC +0 would be first in line.
- The Logician tends to overcomplicate things. If the two unchecked squares in the bottom row of the Logician's puzzle are both even, then the three informants with unique first letter titles visited in alphabetical order. If those two squares are both odd, then they visited in reverse alphabetical order. If one square is even and one is odd, then the Logician rushes in to be first in line and doesn't notice what order anyone else visits in.

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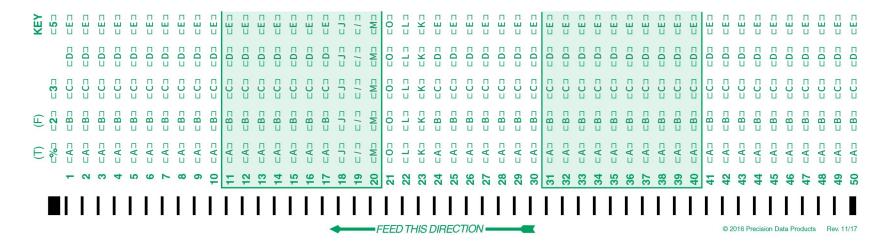
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The Academic, 2 of 3

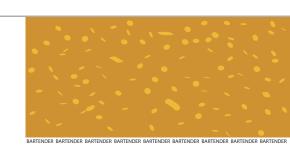
Know thyself.



- 1. Which student groups have offices in Walker Memorial?
- 2. Which businesses partner with MITAC to give students discounts?
- 3. Which fraternity houses have to cross a bridge to attend classes?
- 4. In which dorms may cats be kept?
- 5. Which have been overall themes for past Mystery Hunts?
- 6. Which names have team Palindrome NOT used for Mystery Hunt?
- 7. Which courses are NOT required to earn a Pirate Certificate at MIT?
- 8. What movements are acceptable during the first three laps of the MIT swim test?
- 9. What courses can you take to fulfill your PEandW requirement at MIT?
- 10. Which intramural sports leagues exist at MIT?
- 11. What was the theme of the 34th Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony?
- 12. Where were Ig Nobel Face-to-Face sessions held in 2024?
- 13. Which topics were researched by 2024 Ig Nobel Prize winners?
- 14. Who (or what) keeps Ig Nobel acceptance speeches short?
- 15. What have hackers placed on the Small Dome?
- 16. What should ethical hackers do?
- 17. Where could you find barber poles on November 8, 2021?

The Academic, 3 of 3

The Bartender



A)	\$10,000 bill	B)	a life-size cow	C)	a witch's hat	D)	Bexley Hall	E)	moon landing
A)	Banana Lounge	B)	The Alchemist	C)	outside 10-250	D)	atop Kresge	E)	Transparent Horizon
A)	bowling	B)	flag football	C)	dodgeball	D)	ultimate frisbee	E)	lacrosse
A)	Burton Conner	B)	Random Hall	C)	Simmons Hall	D)	East Campus	E)	MacGregor
A)	butterfly	B)	back stroke	C)	front crawl	D)	drowning	E)	breaststroke
A)	Chunky's Cinema	B)	Duck Tours	C)	Boxaroo	D)	Boda Borg	E)	Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
A)	coin flips	B)	dead trout	C)	hair whorls	D)	drunk worms	E)	pigeon pilots
A)	fencing	B)	archery	C)	sailing	D)	pistol	E)	spikeball
A)	hack alone	B)	steal things	C)	be safe	D)	use brute force	E)	drink and derive
A)	jazz funk	B)	canoeing	C)	pickleball	D)	figure skating	E)	SCUBA diving
A)	Miss Sweetie-Poo	B)	a banana	C)	entropy	D)	paper airplanes	E)	guilt
A)	Murphy's Law	B)	Godwin's Law	C)	Rule 34	D)	Occam's Razor	E)	the Bechdel Test
A)	Pokemon	B)	Jurassic Park	C)	Mousetrap	D)	Toy Story	E)	Around the World in 80 Days
A)	Roadkill Buffet	B)	Voo Doo Magazine	C)	Dance Troupe	D)	Grad Student Coun	cil	E) Tech Squares
A)	Theta Xi	B)	Kappa Sigma	C)	Zeta Beta Tau	D)	Alpha Delta Phi	E)	Phi Delta Theta
A)	Tokyo	B)	Berlin	C)	Canberra	D)	Cambridge	E)	Mumbai
A)	Yo Aloha Hola Oy	B)	El Google	C)	I Prefer Pi	D)	Not So Boston	E)	Snafu Fans

The Bartender works the floor at establishments from one end of town to the other, all within certain areas, but their favorite is at the heart of MITropolis.

Deep Amber Cuts
Eggplant Theory Bar & Lounge
Grendel's Heliotrope Den
Miracle of Pink Science Bar + Grill
Red PJ Ryan's
Sepia Shine Square Pub
The Aquamarine Phoenix Landing
The Tangerine Burren