

A PUZZLING CONCLUSION

by Ken Weber



Overheard on the Sidewalk in Erin

"You know, it's interesting that I know the names of the people at the bank. There's Mr. Black, Ms. Brown, Mr. White and Ms. Green, but what's so frustrating is that I don't know who does what there."

"Me too! Now, I know that Ms. Brown – she's the one that doesn't play any sports at all – she's taller than the auditor and taller than the teller too, but don't ask me what she does."

"I see. That's just what it's like for me too. By the way, the one that always has lunch alone...? That's the manager. And that Mr. White... he plays cards with Mr. Black."

"Really! Well, Ms. Green can't be the manager then, because she always has lunch with the auditor and the teller."

"I've seen the tallest one playing basketball over at the school nearly every night."

"Have you now? Well that wouldn't be Ms. Brown then, would it? I wonder if she's older than the auditor because I know Mr. Black is. By the way, did I mention that one of them is the accountant?"

"Is that so? It's like I said, we know the names of the four of them, but not what they do."

Tell the speakers on the sidewalk in Erin just who does what at the bank.

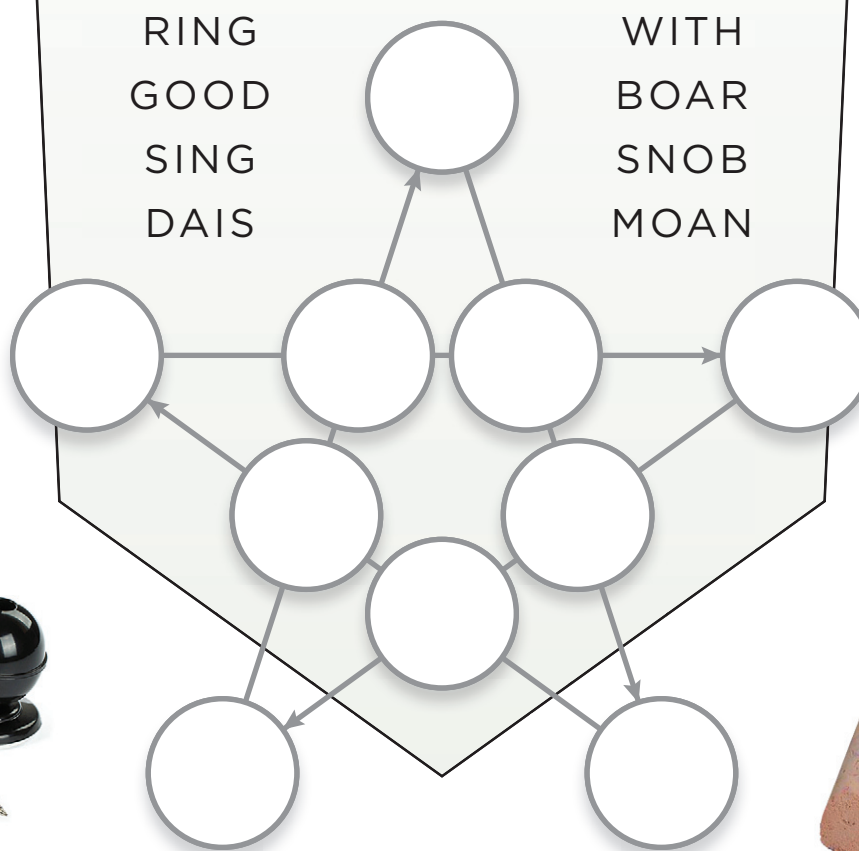


A Pentagram at the Alton Spring Fair

Schools in Caledon, Amaranth, Mono and East Garafraxa were invited to send their champion puzzle solver to a competition at the Alton Spring Fair. The challenge was to solve this pentagram puzzle in the fastest time. The winner, a grade six student from S.S. No. 16 in Mono Mills took eight minutes to enter the correct words into this pentagram.

Can you do it faster?

Enter **five** – your choice! – of the eight words below into the circles of the pentagram. Each circle holds just one letter. When you are finished, the words you have entered must be read in the directions indicated by the arrows.



Expanding and Contracting

Insert a mathematical symbol between the 5 and the 9 of the number 59 to get a number that is bigger than 5 yet smaller than 9.

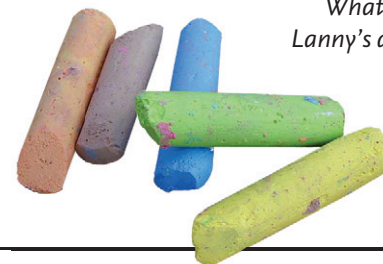
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On the Sidewalk in Orangeville

When Lanny was sweeping away leaves on the sidewalk in front of her parents' store on Broadway, she noticed that someone had used coloured chalk to write an equation on the sidewalk. There were 26 brackets that started like this $(x-a)$ $(x-b)$ $(x-c)$ and ran all the way through to $(x-z) = ?$

Lanny used a piece of chalk to write the correct answer over top of the question mark. Then she washed the equation off the sidewalk.

What was Lanny's answer?



AN IN THE HILLS MINI MYSTERY

A single glance at the old-fashioned font and the worn lower case 'm' told Brooke that the text she was looking at had definitely been hammered out on Oswald Dorn's ancient manual typewriter. The same glance told her that what she had believed was Oswald's will, the one in her law office in Grand Valley, the one he'd laboriously typed himself, might now be out of date.

That single glance, however, was all Brooke managed before the eyes boring into her from across the table forced her to look up.

"The money's mine now!" The expression on the face of Oswald's estranged daughter dared Brooke to disagree. "As it should be! All he ever cared about was his dictionaries and thesauruses and correcting my speech. 'Properly, Alison! Speak properly!' He never gave me a cent while he was alive, much less a minute of attention unless I made a spelling mistake."

The fierce look changed to a triumphant smile. "But I win now, don't I?"

Did Oswald Change His Mind?

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
I, Oswald Dorn, an of sound
mind and hereby state that the
following instructions
supercede any and all other
wills and testaments signed by
me prior to this date. I hereby
instruct that my entire estate

Brooke didn't respond. She knew Oswald Dorn had been a cold and uncaring parent, in spite of – perhaps because of – being widowed very early. She also knew his sole interest in life was an obsessive devotion to preserving what he saw as precise and correct use of the English language. Except for a housemaid almost as eccentric as Oswald himself, Brooke was one of the few people with whom he ever had regular contact.

The original will, the one in Brooke's safe, left a portion of Oswald's considerable wealth to the housemaid and the rest to organizations like Credit Valley Conservation, but this new document now challenged those instructions. On the other hand, Brooke could tell that even though this new will had been written with Oswald's typewriter, he had not typed it himself so she had good reason to be suspicious.

How does Brooke know that Oswald didn't type this new will?