

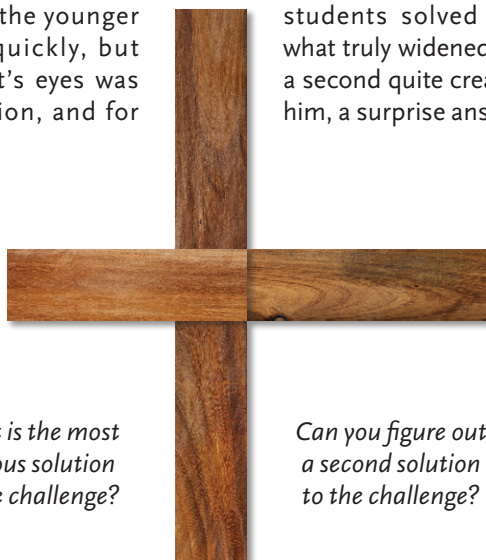
A PUZZLING CONCLUSION

by Ken Weber

Creativity at Kilgorie

At S.S.#15 Mulmur in Kilgorie, teacher Mr. Stuart was well-known for his “Little Toughies,” puzzles for which solutions demanded both logic and creativity, not to mention a healthy application of mathematical skill.

One wintry December day, Mr. Stuart took advantage of some carpentry being done at the school and placed four boards of identical size on the floor at the front of the room in the pattern shown here. His challenge, which he pointed out was really quite easy for a change, was to move just one board to make a square. Even the younger students solved this one quickly, but what truly widened Mr. Stuart’s eyes was a second quite creative solution, and for students solved this what truly widened Mr. Stuart’s eyes was a second quite creative solution, and for



What is the most obvious solution to the challenge?

Can you figure out a second solution to the challenge?

A Different Perspective on ‘Groaners’?

One of the early settlers of Erin Township was Samuel McKee, a man known for telling “fish stories” and for his passion for the simple riddles we often call “groaners.”

What is interesting about groaners is that they are usually called that by people who can’t answer them. But to those who get the answer the riddles are “clever.”

What is your perspective on each of these: “groaner” or “clever”?



- A: A cowboy rides into town on Friday. He stays in town exactly four days and rides out on Friday. How is this possible?
- B: A blind dog chases a fox into a forest. How far into the forest can the dog run?
- C: If you know what the centre of gravity is, then do you also know what’s in the middle of nowhere?
- D: What can be put down a drainpipe down but not up a drainpipe up?
- E: Name three consecutive days without using Wednesday, Friday or Sunday.

The Jolly Morphology Club Offers “Morphing”

According to the bartender – former bartender – of what had been a tavern near Mono Mills, drop-in traffic at his enterprise remained steady because his patrons had accepted prohibition and not only played word games now, but always answered every question correctly.

Use the game below to compare your skill to that of a typical Jolly Morphology patron.

Insert two letters (any two) into each list word (at any place in the word) in order to “morph” it into a completely new word that will fit one of the definitions below. For example, inserting the letters ‘de’ into the list word ‘oral’ will morph it into ‘ordeal’, which fits definition 12.

LIST WORDS

oral	ray	medal	peer	estate
bait	fly	ford	singe	reef
tow	fur	aunt	purse	dial

DEFINITIONS

- I _____ a hot spice
- II _____ lessening or removal of pain, stress, etc.
- III _____ that which forms the reason for an action or event
- IV _____ a female horse up to four years old
- V _____ relating to the science or practice of healing
- VI _____ finely ground substance made from grain
- VII _____ a declaration that something is untrue
- VIII _____ to send forcibly through the air
- IX _____ to bring or come together for a common purpose
- X _____ the extent or total of anything
- XI _____ an instrument used to inject fluids
- XII _____ any challenging or distressing experience
- XIII _____ to judge or calculate approximately
- XIV _____ a robber or outlaw
- XV _____ to command not to do

Mr. Algie’s Conundrum

In his welcoming speech to a convention of jewellers at the Mechanics’ Institute in Alton, William Algie posed this question to the audience: “What timepiece has the least number of moving parts?”

It wasn’t long before someone responded, “A sun dial!”

“Indeed,” said Mr. Algie. “And what timepiece has the most moving parts?”

Do you know?

Looking at Numbers in Three Different Ways

CHALLENGE NUMBER ONE

Aside from its shape and the quantity it represents, how is the number 7 different from all the other numbers from 1 to 10?

CHALLENGE NUMBER TWO

In the sequence below, where should the two missing numbers between 1 and 14 be inserted?

8 11 5 14 1 7 6 10 13 3 12 2

CHALLENGE NUMBER THREE

The numbers 66, 67 and 77 each belong in separate cells of the grid below, marked x, y and z. You will discover exactly where to put them if you carefully examine the numbers already entered in each row of the grid.

88	39	68	36	30	x=?
21	12	37	49	87	y=?
44	4	71	11	17	z=?