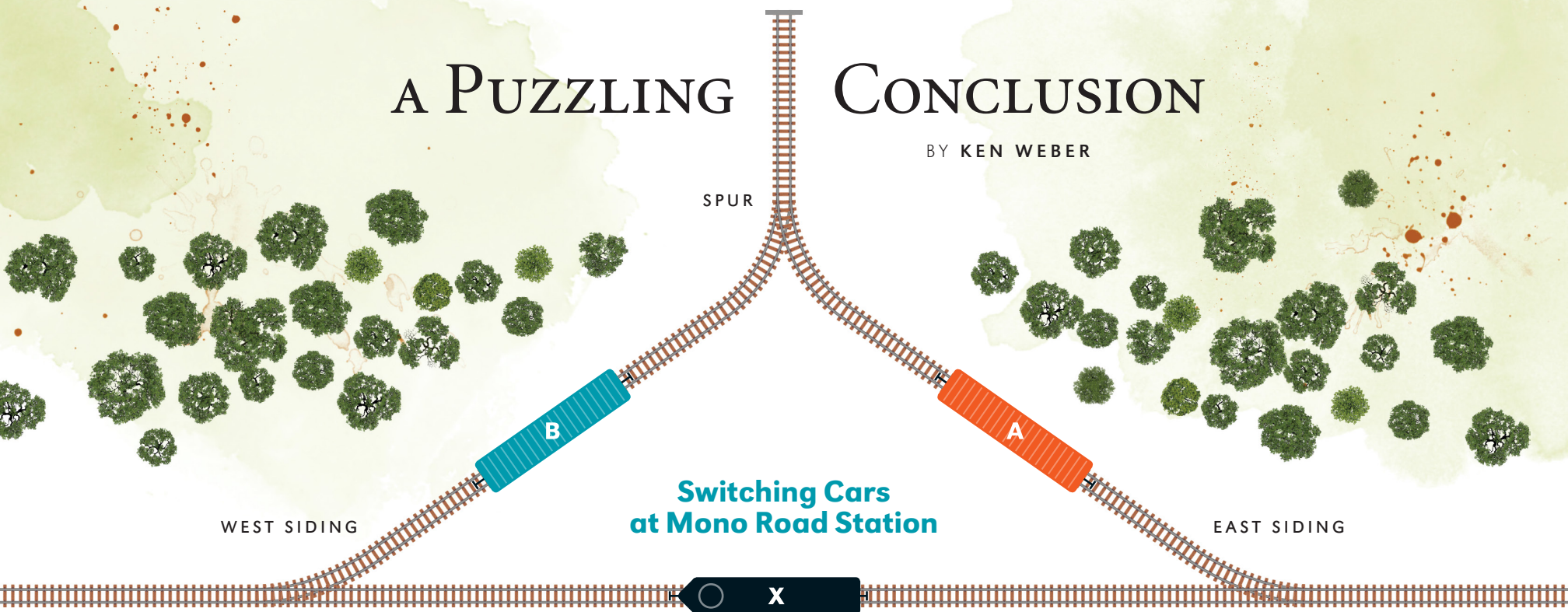


A PUZZLING

CONCLUSION

BY KEN WEBER



Just before sunrise a freight train left a fully loaded freight car (B) on the west siding at the Hamilton and Northwestern Railway station in Mono Road, and on the east siding, left freight car (A), also with a heavy load. When the station master arrived that morning he knew the cars had to be switched, a task that would need a yard engine (X) equipped with couplers front and rear. Fortunately, he was able to call in such an engine from the Palgrave station not far away.

Both sidings at Mono Road station connect to a spur long enough to park a freight car or an engine but not both at once.

Describe how the engine can switch the cars.

The Rungs on Maisie's Ladder

Maisie notices a ladder leaning against the eaves on the south side of the library in Inglewood and imagines she is standing on one of its rungs. If, in her imagination, she were to go up four rungs, down seven and then up ten, she would be on the very top rung. From here, still in her imagination, if she were to go down nine rungs, up three, and then down ten to reach the bottom rung, how many rungs must the ladder have?

Try to solve this using mental imagery – no pen or paper.

Time Yourself

I

How many seconds will it take you to answer this question?

What day is two days after the day after the day before yesterday?

II

How many seconds will it take you to determine what these words have in common?

current by
dew faze
loan ate

Adding to Your Adjective Kit for Shapes

To describe something as *pemphigoid*, rather than simply saying bubble-like or shaped like a blister, may seem verbally ostentatious, but some descriptors of shape and form can be useful, and if used sparingly, even entertaining.



Here are six interesting descriptors.

Match each to the appropriate shape above.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| vermiform | infundibular |
| papilionaceous | campanulate |
| fulgurous | ampullaceous |

The Jolly Morphology Club Gets Sentimental

A century ago, during prohibition, the owners of this former pub covered over a poster advertising a Canadian distillery with a sheet of plain paper on which they presented this poem.

Prohibition is Real. So is Romance!

Through the ♥♥♥♥♥♥ trees
Softly coo the doves
Let a ♥♥♥♥♥♥ breeze
♥♥♥♥♥♥ youthful loves

The pub's patrons were challenged to select the **one** word from the list below that could be inserted into one of the heart-filled spaces and then anagrammed to fill in the other two words to complete the poem.

gentle poplar tender caress forest soothe

All patrons who attempted a solution, successfully or otherwise, were to be awarded prizes – after hours.