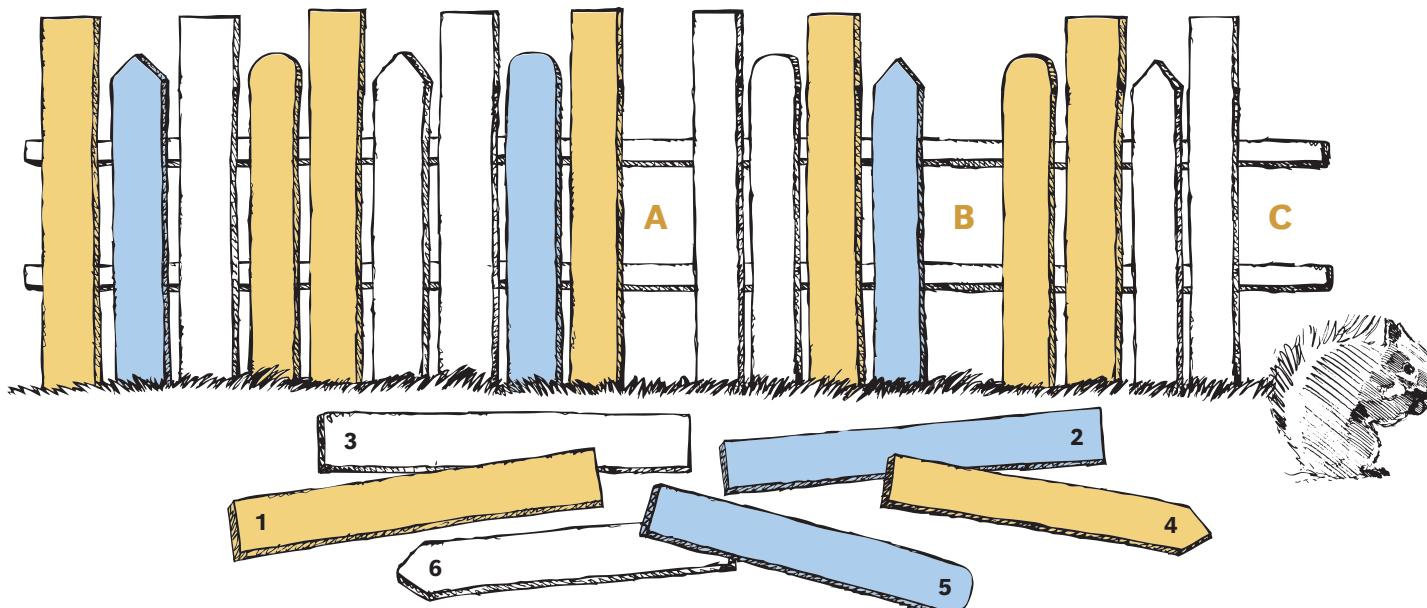


# A PUZZLING CONCLUSION

BY KEN WEBER

## The Inglewood fence

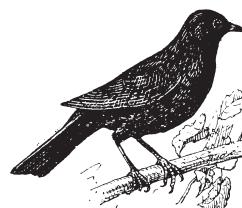
A landscape contractor was called away from construction of a decorative fence on a property in Inglewood with just three slats left to install. If you were tasked with completing the fence, which of slats 1 to 6 would you install at points A, B and C to produce a consistently alternating pattern from left to right?



### House numbers

Wally and Osman are good friends who live on the same street in Grand Valley. They enjoy amusing people by telling them that Osman's house number is the reverse of the number on Wally's, and that subtracting Osman's house number from Wally's number produces a difference ending in 2.

What are the smallest possible numbers on their respective houses?



### Rhyming outside the box

Twice four and twenty blackbirds  
baked in a pie.  
I don't have forty-eight of them!  
Can you tell me why?



Observing a distant hillside, a  
biologist makes note of five sheep,  
two dogs and a shepherd.

How many feet does she record?



Without adding, subtracting,  
multiplying or dividing, how can an  
editor make the number 7 even?



On the face of it, there is only one  
place where 2 can be added to 11  
to come up with one. Where?

### The answer is in the letters

A careful examination of the numbers 1 to 1000 reveals that 3, 7, 8, 40, 50 and 60 share a distinction not found in any other number.

What is it?

The words *ring*, *earth*, *windless*, and *tops* share a common feature found in only one of these words: *error*, *pale*, *abject*, *ought*.

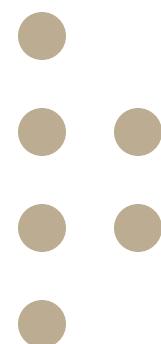
What is that one word?

If you think about this string of letters  
you might hear what they represent.

H I J K L M N O

### On the blackboard at S.S.#15 Mulmur in Kilgorie

Mr. Stuart, the teacher at S.S.#15, was notorious for presenting difficult number problems to his students, so when the school inspector visited, he was surprised to find this relatively simple challenge on the blackboard.



Arrange the numbers

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

in the pattern above. No number may appear diagonally to or beside numbers that come before or after it. (E.g., the number 4 may not appear diagonally to or beside 3 or 5.)

Can you solve Mr. Stuart's simple challenge?