

First published by Quixar Press 2024

Copyright © Loris Owen 2024

The author asserts her moral rights to this work, including but not limited to the right of attribution and the integrity of the work. The author asserts her moral right to be identified as author in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act, 1988.

All rights reserved.

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form, binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

All characters in this publication are fictitious and any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

ISBN 978-1-7385583-3-9

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Loris Owen was born in Bolton and raised in Zimbabwe. She roamed the world in search of adventure before settling in the English Midlands, where she can often be found behind mountains of post-it notes or reading to ducks. If she can't be found, she's probably disappeared into a particularly good puzzle.

Find more novels and puzzle collections by Loris Owen on Amazon and wherever books are sold:

The Ten Riddles of Eartha Quicksmith (2020)

The Myriad Mysteries of Eartha Quicksmith (2022)

The Cyber Ciphers of Eartha Quicksmith (2025)


HOW TO PLAY

Pair up letters, symbols or numbers with the letters of the alphabet to work out a would you rather question in secret code. Answer the question on your own or with friends and family.

Some of the secret code is revealed to help you start. Use a fine-tipped pencil or erasable pen to fill in the key grid at the bottom of the page (the first few pages are done for you). Then find empty squares in the code that you can complete using the key. Look for repeated symbols and fill in the letters. You might need to guess some of the words!



If you get stuck, there are picture clues on the reverse of each code page. Find vocabulary, definitions and a link to answers at the back of the book. The questions do not have punctuation.

This book uses US English spelling, e.g. "color" not "colour", -ize not -ise at the end of words, "mom" instead of "mum", "favorite" not "favourite", "apartment" not "flat", "named for" instead of "named after", "organization" not "organisation" and "mustache" instead of "moustache". 

HOW TO PLAY

Look for superletters: In English, some letters are used more often than others, like "E," "A," and "T." If you see a letter that shows up a lot in the code, it might be one of these superletters.

Guess and check: If you need to guess, try to find an unsolved letter that appears in several words. Keep testing until the words start making sense, and keep your eraser handy!



*scan to watch
an example video*

Try finding common words: Shorter words are common in English. For example, a three-letter word starting with "T" and ending with "E" is mostly likely to be "The." As you play, you'll also start to recognise other common words, such as "A", "Have", "Like" and "You".

Two-letter keywords: The word "Or" appears in every puzzle but there are lots of other two-letter words too, including "On" and "Of". If you're stuck, guessing these joining words can help you to crack the code.

HOW TO PLAY

Made-up words: There are two made-up words from the Quicksmiths books included in the puzzles: Skycrackle and Thoughtwave. There are also five fictional items: Plasma Slug, Hoverdisc, Gravity Bracelet, Strange Energy and Wormhole Lasso.

Keep an open mind: If a picture clue includes a robot or a hamster, it doesn't *always* mean that the word "hamster" or "robot" is contained in the secret code.

Use context: If you have some of the question already, you might be able to work out the rest more easily.

Check the vocabulary list: Is there a word you just can't guess? Remember there's a list at the back of the book!





WOULD YOU RATHER...

turn over
for a clue

A

f d e t

C S H

m b z u h b o f

T

m t t m f

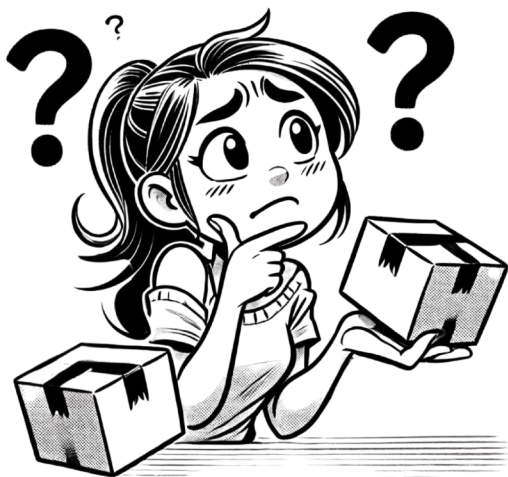
v l

K Y

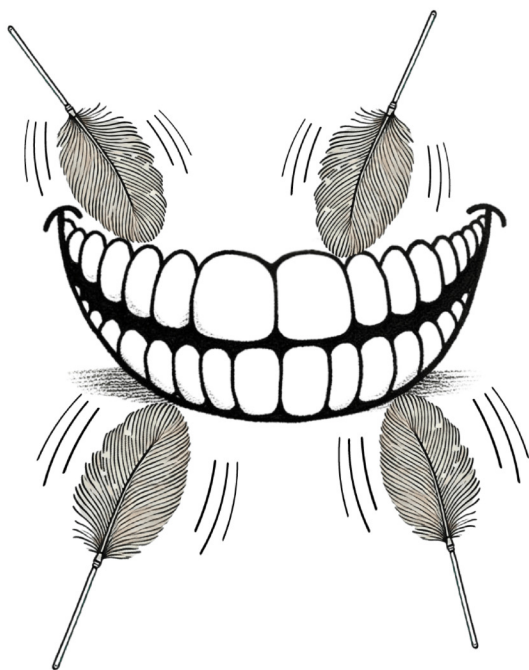
z l t d u w

E I D

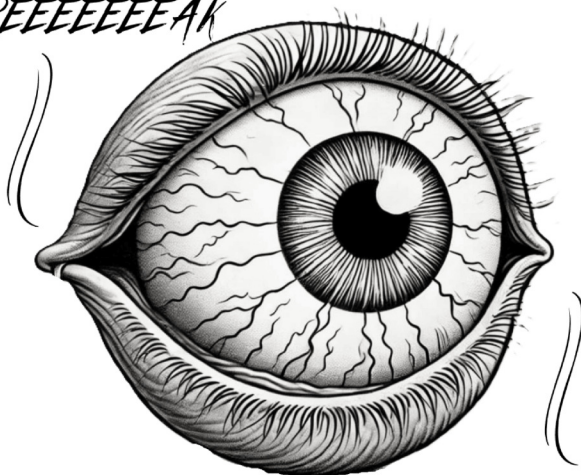
t w t h b j o



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
d		z	j	t			f	b		u		
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
					o	m					w	



CREEEEEEAAK



CREEEEEEAAK



WOULD YOU RATHER...

Turn over
for a clue

W [] [] []

s q b d

[] [] I [] []

b p t h q

[] [] G [] [] N

v t z q x k

H [] []

g b f

[] R []

x d b

L [] V []

p t h q

S [] [] K []

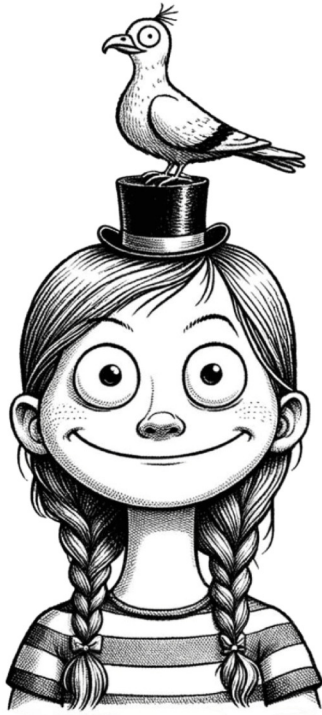
y k b c q

[] [] [] [] F

y r b d a



A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z





WOULD YOU RATHER...

Turn over
for a clue

M

l m x c

z n

y r c

D

b t e u o a

U E T

i z j j f c a y

J

h t x c

t e

I

b f j

m

N B L

j t p c u

P

n e f w c



A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M

N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z





WOULD YOU RATHER...

turn over
for a clue

B									K			
t	v	o	t	f	v	b	l	b	o	f	i	
			I	C			N	S	O			
b	l	q	u	r	q	i	v	x	g	l	j	
			W				T		F		E	
i	x	l	k	k	u	o	b	y	f	r	v	g
												G
O	J	V	B	U	R	X	I	R	X	P		



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z





WOULD YOU RATHER...

Turn over for a clue

V

1 26 21 77

C L I

35 74 10 10 16 77 68 19 86 1

M

26 9 3 86

N

39 34

18 39 74 9

68 26 35 77

39 9

V

1 26 21 77

N K

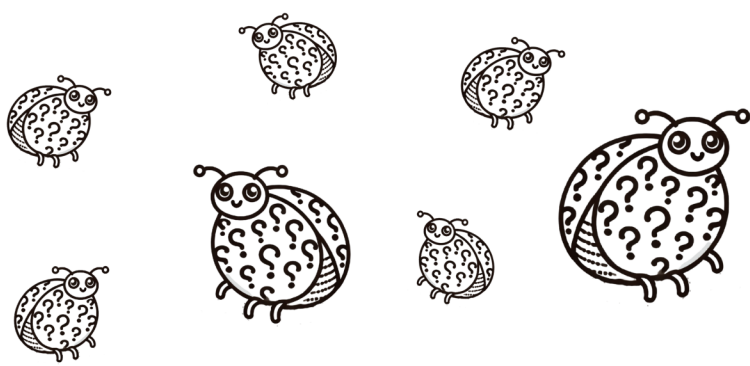
34 26 73 77 70

3 39 16 77

9 26 10

T T

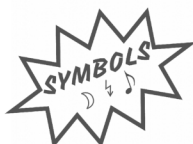
10 77 77 10 1



A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z





WOULD YOU RATHER...

Turn over for a clue

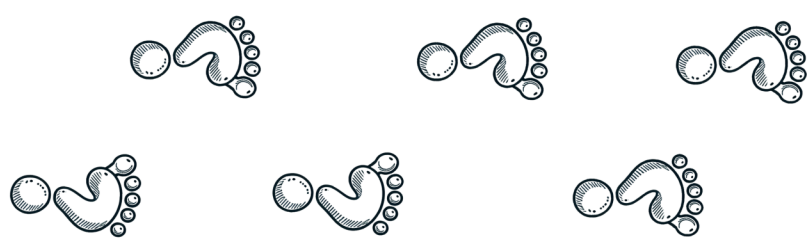
□	E	□	B	□	□	□	□	K	□	□	E	
○	↑	♥	○	⚠	↑	☁	★	↻	Σ	♥	☁	↑

□	□	□	□	□	□	H	□	□	□
★	⊗	↙	★	♂	▣	✂	↑	♥	☀

□	□	□	L	□	□	□		
★	▣	♣	♥	⚠	Σ	☁	✂	↑

□	I	□	□	T	□	□	□	E	□	□
☁	🌸	❄	✂	☁	▣	★	🎵	↑	★	⊗

□	□	□	□	□	□	□	S	
↙	★	♂	▣	✂	♥	⊗	☀	↻



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



NUMBERS
23 42 99

WOULD YOU RATHER...

Turn over
for a clue

W [] [] [] []

90 11 35 28 86

[] N []

11 3

[] P [] [] []

16 56 68 73 11

[] [] [] F [] [] [] []

56 68 73 35 16 73 9 68 82

[] Y []

77 75

[] [] [] [] T []

69 74 11 3 35

[] [] [] [] I [] []

88 74 3 69 74 3 69

M [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

9 81 88 86 73 16 16 9 88

[] []

16 73

[] []

77 68

[] H [] []

35 86 68

[] S [] [] []

88 35 11 73

[] [] []

11 28 35

[] []

74 3

[]

11

[] [] [] []

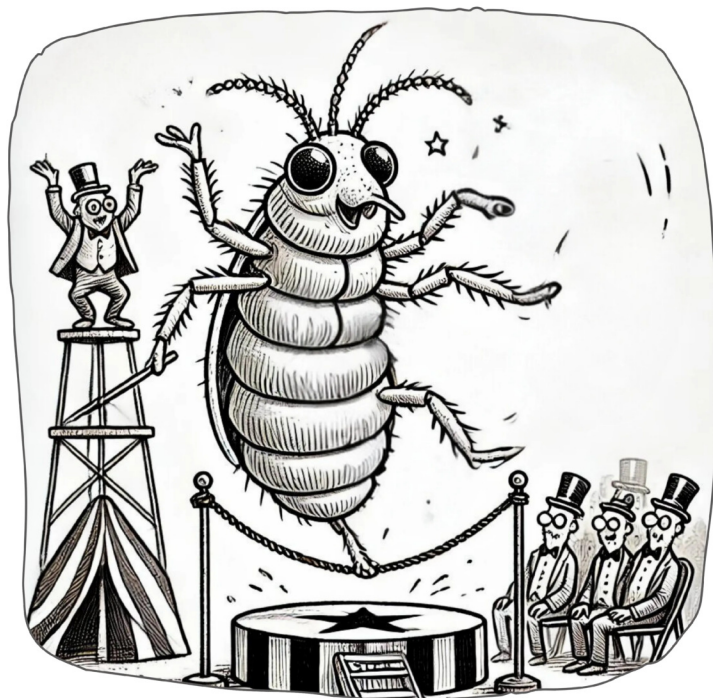
35 83 68 11

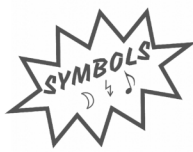
[] [] [] [] U []

28 74 73 28 81 88



A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z





WOULD YOU RATHER...

Turn over for a clue

□ □	F □ □	□	□ □ □ E	□ □
☯ ♣	↻ ♣ ⑦	♣	⑦ ✂ * ✧	♣ ↘

□ H □	□ □ □	□ L □ □ □
🍔 + ✧	🍔 ♣ ♥	↻ ✂ ♣ ♣ ⑦

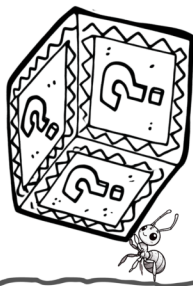
□ □	□	□ □ V □ □
♣ ↻	♣	○ ✧ ☆ ✧ ↘

D □ □ □ □ R	□ □ S	□ □
* ✧ ✨ — ✧ ⑦	★ ⊕ ○	♣ ⑦

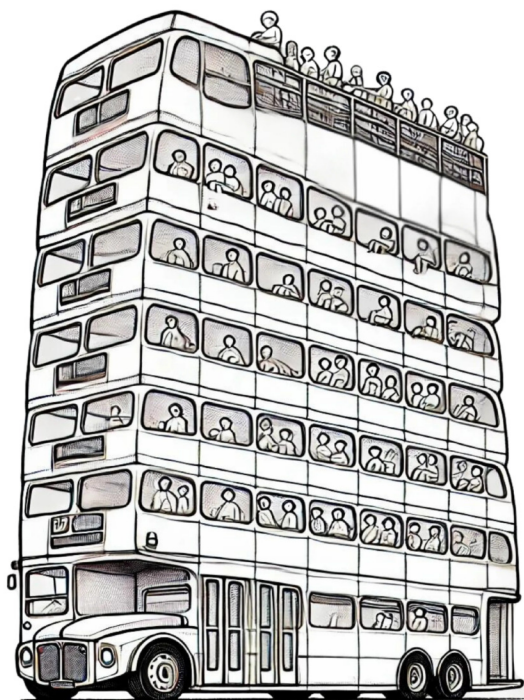
G □	□ □ □	□	□ □ □ □
☯ ♣	↻ ♣ ⑦	♣	⑦ ✂ * ✧

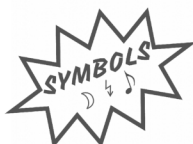
□ □	□ N	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ B □ □
♣ ↘	♣ ↘	✂ ↘ ☆ ✂ ○ ✂ ⊕ ✂ ✧

□ □ I □	Y C	□ □
⊕ ↘ ✂ ✨	💧 ✨	✂ ✧



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z





WOULD YOU RATHER...

Turn over for a clue

					F									
←	↗	♥	♔	↗	♠	↗	✂	♠	♣	♠	☀	♣	☀	

H				E										
←	\$	♣	♔	♠	♣	♠	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣

P														
★	↗	\$	①	☀	\$	①	♠	✂	↗	♣	♔			

				U					W		
♠	♠	♣	♠	♣	♠	♣	♠	♣	♠	♣	①

		I												
↗	①	\$	①	☀	♣	♠	♣	♠	♣	♠	♣	♠	♣	♠

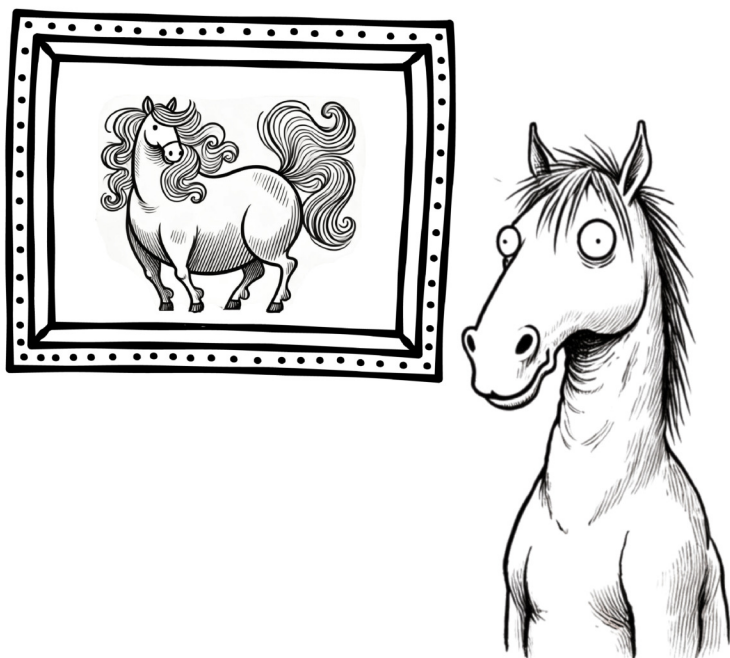
B														
☀	♔	↗	♣	☀	\$	♠	♣	♠	♣	♠	☀	♣	☀	

				N											
♠	♣	♣	\$	①	↗	♣	♠	★	↗	\$	①	☀	\$	①	♠

			S					G		
♠	♠	↗	♠	☀	♣	↗	①	♠	♔	♣



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z





WOULD YOU RATHER...

Turn over
for a clue

□ □ □ □

A U X D

□

U

T □ □ □

Z K E N

B □ □ □

T Q I I

□ □ G □ □

U E M D I

P □ □ □ □ □ □

G I U N K E M

□ □ □

Z A D

H □ □ □

A U C G

□ □

W E

Y □ □ □

N W Q C

□ □ □ □ L D E □

V A W Q I S D C

□ □

W C

□

U

□ □ □ □

Z K E N

□ □ □ □ □

U E M C N

□ □ □ □

P C W M

□ □ □ □ N

S D L W E

□ Q □ □ □ □ □ □ □

V J Q D U B K E M

□ □ □ □ C □ □ □ □ □

S K C D O Z K W E V



A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z





WOULD YOU RATHER...

Turn over
for a clue

S C [] [] []

E T G R M

[] [] []

P R V

[] H []

V B H

[] R [] [] [] []

Z G S C P W

[] [] [] B E [] []

E V S M I H

[] []

P G

[] [] [] []

B S F H

[] []

V P

[] A [] []

Q S E E

[]

S

[] [] [] P [] [] [] []

E R G Q G X E H

[] X [] []

H U S L

I []

X W

[] [] I [] []

S I X H W

P [] [] [] [] [] [] S

Q P I X V X T E

([] [] []

W P V

M [] [] [] [] [] [] []

L R I V X Q I H

[] [] [] [] [] E)

T B P X T H



A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z





WOULD YOU RATHER...

Turn over for a clue

□ □ □ P

R P U L

□ □ □

H Y Y

□

Z

□ □ V □ □ □

O E A E S Q

□ □ □ □ D

K H Z V O

□ □ T □

H S M H

□

Z

□ □ □ □

C P Q I

□ □ □ □ □ □ L L □ □

U Z V N C U Z B B H J

□ □

H V

□ □ E

K I

□ H □ □

N C H M

□ □ □ □

Y V H U

□

Z

C □ □ □ □ □

F Z S S H S

□ □ □ □

E S M H

□

Z

M □ U □ □ □ □ □

U H P S M Z E S

□ □

H Y

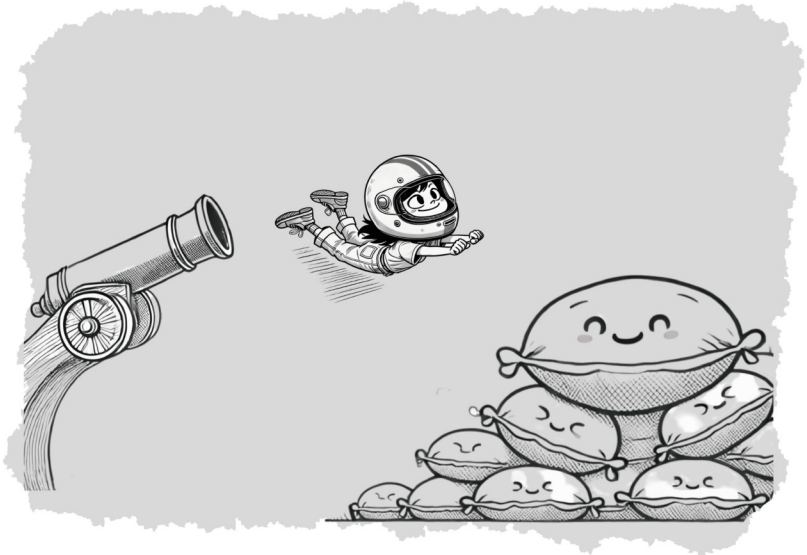
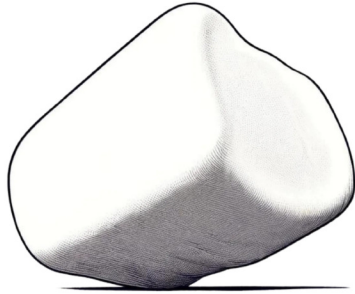
□ I □ □ □ □ □

L E B B H J N



A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



VOCABULARY & SPELLING

Alphabetize	Personalities
Anthem	Politics
Chameleon	Porcupine
Cosmic	Saxophone
Cuttlefish	Sinus
Eclipse	Skiing
Futuristic	Spaghetti
Gibbon	Species
Hypnotic	Stair Lift
Impenetrable	Tarantula
Indestructible	Teleport
Lasso	Turban
Leech	Voodoo
Miniature	Wormhole
Perpetual	Zip Wire



DEFINITIONS

Atlantis: An ancient island nation. Some people believe it existed and some of those people believe it had advanced technology. Others think it's fictional. According to legend, Atlantis sank beneath the waves and became known as The Lost City. I like to imagine merpeople riding around on sea dragons here.

The Big Bang: A teeny but mega explosion (much smaller than an atom) that happened billions of years ago, and expanded faster than a thought, like a balloon blowing up incredibly quickly. Many scientists believe that the vast energy it produced started the universe, forming all the stars, planets, and everything we see in space today. It should really be called the Tiny Bang.

Chrysalid: Ever seen a butterfly before it hatches, when it's being all creepy in its cocoon of creepiness which shakes when you move it? THAT'S a chrysalid.

Cuttlefish: If I was making an encyclopedia of weird things I would start with the cuttlefish. It can change its colour and texture like an octopus, it has squid tentacles around its mouth, and W-shaped pupils. You're so weird, cuttlefish, and we love you.

Dimensional: This word relates to shape and size. So a drawing on a piece of paper is 2-dimensional because it only has length and width. You are 3-dimensional because you have depth too (unless you fell into a paper-making machine).

Dry ice: A form of carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is frozen at room temperature and turns straight to gas from a solid. It's used for dramatic effect by fancy aliens when they are descending the ramp of their spaceship, and at vampire balls when a particularly vain vampire is making an appearance.

Honey badger: A cute-looking African mammal which looks like a sloth met a badger and they had a silverback baby. Except it's not cute. It's crazy and hard as nails. Don't get in a fight with a honey badger.

DEFINITIONS

Jingle: A jingle is a short, catchy tune, especially one from an advert. You know, that irritating but irresistible song that you sang all day to annoy your sister/brother/dog/mum/dad but now it's still playing in your head at 2 a.m.

Launderette: A place where cats go to watch people's clothes going round and round in big washing machines.

Martial arts: A general term for kung fu, karate, aikido, tae kwon do, jujitsu, tai chi, silat, kendo, judo, extreme tiddlywinks ... you get the picture.

Monkey puzzle tree: An ancient species of tall, spiky, evergreen tree. It has long, sharp, scale-like leaves arranged in a spiral pattern, resembling a living puzzle that's difficult for even a monkey to climb. Monkeys think they're so clever. Who's clever now, monkeys?

Nobel prize: One hundred and something years ago there was a Swedish boffin called Alfred Nobel, who liked mixing chemicals together and invented dynamite, among other things. Kerching! That's the sound of gold coins rolling down the sides of his enormous fortune mountain. He decided to do something good with his money, and set up a prize given every year to the person (or people) who invents something that most benefits the world.

Awards are given in Chemistry, Literature, Physics, Medicine and Peace (and later, Economics). The youngest Nobel Prize winner was 17 years old!

Patagonia: A region in the most southerly bit of South America, which is part of Argentina and Chile. It has penguins, so it must be nice.

Pinocchio: That guy in the fairytale made of wood who comes to life and when he tells a lie his head explodes - I MEAN HIS NOSE GETS LONGER. I always get that wrong.

DEFINITIONS

Plasma: The fourth state of matter after solid, liquid and gas. It usually happens at incredibly hot temperatures over 10,000 Fahrenheit (about as hot as the inside of a pop tart that just came out of the toaster) and makes up nearly all of the visible universe.

Reenacted: Acted out again. When you get the "re" at the beginning of words it often means something that can be repeated, such as "reentered" "reimagined" and "refill my bottomless shake please".

Retract: This also is a repeating verb which means to take back. Cats can retract their claws, but you can't retract that terrible dad joke you told really loudly just as the room happened to go quiet.

Tsunami: A Japanese word for a huge deadly wave that can be caused by earthquakes, weather, glaciers melting or a sea monster burp. Animals seek high ground when a tsunami is coming, and the sea retreats a long way from the beach a few hours before it hits.

Zorb: A giant hamster ball for people. I'm not kidding!

Venus flytrap: A carnivorous plant that likes to eat yummy insects. It shows off shiny, pretty red leaves that are actually big, hairy mouths. And then when an innocent fly steps in ... SNAP!

ANSWERS

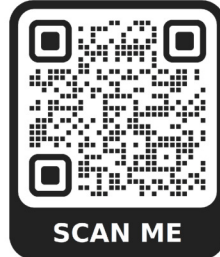
Use the camera or QR setting on your phone to scan the pattern to the right and go to the answers page at quicksmiths.com.
Less pages = more trees.



FREE STUFF AND MORE BOOKS

If you enjoyed this book, please consider giving a rating on Amazon, or share on social media.

Visit quicksmiths.com for loads of free stuff from online brain games to origami, daily wordles, and original riddles.



If you enjoyed the would you rather and puzzles in this book, you might also like "The Ten Riddles of Eartha Quicksmith" and "The Myriad Mysteries of Eartha Quicksmith".



The Ten Riddles

The Myriad Mysteries

