

**"No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting" Mary Wortley Montagu**

## Poems of the Week

### Come to the Edge

Christopher Logue (1926 – 2011)

*Come to the edge.  
We might fall.  
Come to the edge.  
It's too high!  
COME TO THE EDGE!  
And they came,  
And he pushed,  
And they flew.*

### Choose

Carl Sandburg (1878-1967)

*The single clenched fist lifted and ready,  
Or the open asking hand held out and waiting.  
Choose:  
For we meet by one or the other.*

## Did you know?

- Malcom X learnt to read in prison by copying out pages of the dictionary. He started at A and kept going.
- The fear of running out of something to read is called Abibliophobia.
- The M6 Toll Road was partly built with 2.5 million pulped copies of Mills and Boon romance novels.

## A moral dilemma: Clockwork Orange?

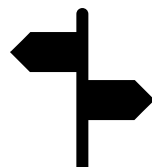
'The Home Secretary had been told in no uncertain terms that his plan was 'politically unacceptable'. But just because it was similar to something a well-known novelist had described in a work of dystopic fiction, that was no reason to dismiss it out of hand.

Like the Ludovico process in Anthony Burgess's *A Clockwork Orange*, the new Crime Aversion Therapy programme took repeat offenders through an unpleasant, though not lengthy, treatment that left them repulsed by the very thought of the crimes they had committed.

To the Home Secretary it seemed not so much a win-win situation, as a win-win-win one: the taxpayer won, as treatment was cheaper than prolonged and repeated imprisonment; the criminal won, as life was better outside than inside prison; and society won because previously troublesome blights on the community were turned into law-abiding citizens.

And yet the civil liberties brigade bleated on about 'brainwashing' and denying the essential liberty and dignity of the individual – even though the programme was entirely voluntary. What, thought the Home Secretary, was there to object to?'

(Source: Julian Baggini, *The Pig that Wants to be Eaten and 99 Other Thought Experiments*)



**What do you think?**

## Whose detective?

Match the characters with their creators:

Philip Marlowe  
Hercule Poirot  
Sherlock Holmes  
Auguste Dupin  
Inspector Morse  
Harriet Vane & Lord Peter Wimsey  
Inspector Rebus  
Jack Reacher  
Dave Robicheaux  
Nick and Nora Charles

Colin Dexter  
Edgar Allen Poe  
James Lee Burke  
Ian Rankin  
Lee Child  
Raymond Chandler  
Arthur Conan Doyle  
Dashiell Hammett  
Agatha Christie  
Dorothy L Sayers



## Missing Animals

Complete these book titles:

1. The Curious Incident of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the Night-time
2. Of \_\_\_\_\_ and Men
3. Do Androids Dream of Electric \_\_\_\_\_?
4. One Flew Over the \_\_\_\_\_ Nest
5. The Very Hungry \_\_\_\_\_
6. To Kill a \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Hall
8. \_\_\_\_\_ English
9. H is for \_\_\_\_\_
10. Lord of the \_\_\_\_\_



## The Mice

by Lydia Davis

Mice live in our walls but do not trouble our kitchen. We are pleased but cannot understand why they do not come into our kitchen where we have traps set, as they come into the kitchens of our neighbors. Although we are pleased, we are also upset, because the mice behave as though there were something wrong with our kitchen. What makes this even more puzzling is that our house is much less tidy than the houses of our neighbors. There is more food lying about in our kitchen, more crumbs on the counters and filthy scraps of onion kicked against the base of the cabinets. In fact, there is so much loose food in the kitchen I can only think the mice themselves are defeated by it. In a tidy kitchen, it is a challenge for them to find enough food night after night to survive until spring. They patiently hunt and nibble hour after hour until they are satisfied. In our kitchen, however, they are faced with something so out of proportion to their experience that they cannot deal with it. They might venture out a few steps, but soon the overwhelming sights and smells drive them back into their holes, uncomfortable and embarrassed at not being able to scavenge as they should.

### ANSWERS

#### Whose detective?

Philip Marlowe / Raymond Chandler  
Hercule Poirot / Agatha Christie  
Sherlock Holmes / Arthur Conan Doyle  
Auguste Dupin / Edgar Allen Poe  
Inspector Morse / Colin Dexter  
Harriet Vane and Lord Peter Wimsey / Dorothy L Sayers  
Inspector Rebus / Ian Rankin  
Jack Reacher / Lee Child  
Dave Robicheaux / James Lee Burke  
Nick and Nora Charles / Dashiell Hammett

#### Missing animals

1. Dog  
2. Mice  
3. Sheep  
4. Flies  
5. Cuckoo's  
6. Caterpillar  
7. Mockingbird  
8. Wolf  
9. Pigeon  
10. Hawk