

"Books are the ultimate Dumpees: put them down and they'll wait for you forever; pay attention to them and they always love you back." *John Green*

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BOOK STUFF

Language fact

"E" is the most common letter in English, Norwegian, Finnish, French, and Italian. E accounts for just over 11% of the letters in the Oxford English Dictionary, with the least frequent letter being "Q".

Gadsby is a 1939 novel by Ernest Vincent Wright which does not include any words that contain the letter E, the most common letter in English. A work that deliberately avoids certain letters is known as a lipogram. The plot revolves around the dying fictional city of Branton Hills, which is revitalized as a result of the efforts of protagonist John Gadsby and a youth organizer.

Write a lipogram challenge

Choose one letter you feel it impossible to write without... Got it?

Now, try to re-write your favourite quote without this one letter.

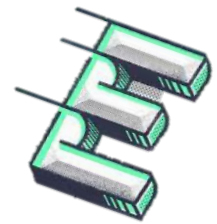
(Bonus: which letter is missing from the instructions above?)

For example:

Chosen letter: S

Quote: "Jazz isn't dead. It just smells funny"

Lipogram: "Jazz ain't dead, but I get a funny odour from it"



Lost in translation

Can you guess which classics are hiding behind these oddly translated titles?

1. Animals Everywhere! (French)
2. Don't Shoot at the Mockingbird (French)
3. The Hompen (Swedish)
4. The Angry Raisins (Japanese)
5. A Man Without Scruples (Swedish)



If you're struggling, here are the authors to give you a clue

1. George Orwell
2. Harper Lee
3. J.R.R. Tolkien
4. John Steinbeck
5. F. Scott Fitzgerald

Languages

By Carl Sandburg

There are no handles upon a language
Whereby men take hold of it
And mark it with signs for its remembrance.
It is a river, this language,
Once in a thousand years
Breaking a new course
Changing its way to the ocean.
It is mountain effluvia
Moving to valleys
And from nation to nation
Crossing borders and mixing.
Languages die like rivers.
Words wrapped round your tongue today
And broken to shape of thought
Between your teeth and lips speaking
Now and today
Shall be faded hieroglyphics
Ten thousand years from now.
Sing—and singing—remember
Your song dies and changes
And is not here to-morrow
Any more than the wind
Blowing ten thousand years ago.

ANSWERS

Lost in Translation

1. Animal Farm, George Orwell
2. To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
3. The Hobbit, J.R.R. Tolkien
4. The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck
5. The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald

Foreign language films

1. German
2. Japanese
3. Swedish
4. Mandarin
5. Spanish
6. South Korean
7. Italian
8. Chewa (Malawi)
9. French
10. Greek

Foreign language films

Can you match up the famous international films with their languages below?

1. *The Lives of Others* (2006)
2. *Princess Mononoke* (1997)
3. *Fanny and Alexander* (1982)
4. *House of Flying Daggers* (2004)
5. *Volver* (2006)
6. *Parasite* (2019)
7. *Bicycle Thieves* (1948)
8. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* (2018)
9. *La Haine* (1995)
10. *Dogtooth* (2009)

Languages

- Chewa (Malawi)
- Spanish
- Japanese
- Greek
- French
- German
- Italian
- South Korean
- Mandarin
- Swedish



With thanks to volunteer Mathilde for this week's Bookstuff!