

BOOK STUFF

#30

'In books I have travelled, not only to other worlds, but into my own.'

The Listeners by Walter de la Mare

'Is there anybody there?' said the Traveller,
Knocking on the moonlit door;
And his horse in the silence champed the grasses
Of the forest's ferny floor:
And a bird flew up out of the turret,
Above the Traveller's head:
And he smote upon the door again a second time;
'Is there anybody there?' he said.
But no one descended to the Traveller;
No head from the leaf-fringed sill
Leaned over and looked into his grey eyes,
Where he stood perplexed and still.
But only a host of phantom listeners
That dwelt in the lone house then
Stood listening in the quiet of the moonlight
To that voice from the world of men:
Stood thronging the faint moonbeams on the dark stair,
That goes down to the empty hall,
Harkening in an air stirred and shaken
By the lonely Traveller's call.
And he felt in his heart their strangeness,
Their stillness answering his cry,
While his horse moved, cropping the dark turf,
'Neath the starred and leafy sky;
For he suddenly smote on the door, even
Louder, and lifted his head:—
'Tell them I came, and no one answered,
That I kept my word,' he said.
Never the least stir made the listeners,
Though every word he spake
Fell echoing through the shadowiness of the still house
From the one man left awake:
Ay, they heard his foot upon the stirrup,
And the sound of iron on stone,
And how the silence surged softly backward,
When the plunging hoofs were gone.

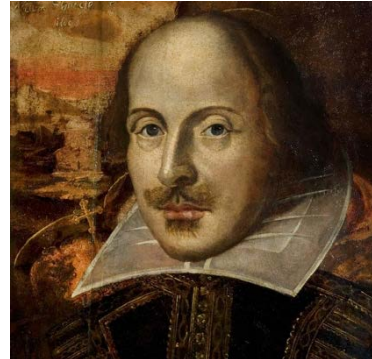
Need a good insult?

Try one of these from Shakespeare, grandmaster of the put-down:

'A pox o' your throat, you bawling, blasphemous, incharitable dog.' (*The Tempest*)

'Come, come, you talk greasily; your lips grow foul.' (*Love's Labour's Lost*)

'Drunkenness is his best virtue, for he will be swine-drunk; and in his sleep he does little harm, except to his bed-clothes about him.' (*All's Well that Ends Well*)



Puns to make you groan

I invested a lot of money in an origami business, but it folded.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

I had a crazy dream last night. I was swimming in an ocean of orange soda. Turns out it was just a Fanta sea.

I don't trust stairs because they're always up to something.

Your move

These are all films or books with famous chess scenes. Match the clues with the titles:

1. Named after a classic chess move
2. A heist film starring Steve McQueen and Faye Dunaway
3. A replicant defeats his creator in a game
4. The opening scene shows a match between a Czech grandmaster who also works for the evil Spectre organisation
5. A battle-weary knight plays a game against Death
6. One of the characters carves chess pieces out of soapstone and alabaster
7. It features Prospero, Caliban, Ariel and a pair of chess-playing lovers. Includes the famous phrase 'O brave new world'
8. An epic chess story on a transatlantic liner unearths a story of persecution and obsession
9. The film directed by Guy Ritchie features a game between the hero and his arch enemy Professor Moriarty

- a. Blade Runner
- b. Shakespeare, The Tempest
- c. Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows
- d. The Shawshank Redemption
- e. Stefan Zweig, *A Chess Story*
- f. The Seventh Seal
- g. The Thomas Crown Affair
- h. From Russia with Love
- i. The Queen's Gambit



What makes a good short story?

The Chicken by Linda Elegant

As I was walking down Stanton Street early one Sunday morning, I saw a chicken a few yards ahead of me. I was walking faster than the chicken, so I gradually caught. By the time we approached Eighteenth Avenue, I was close behind. The chicken turned south on Eighteenth. At the fourth house along, it turned in at the walk, hopped up the front steps, and rapped sharply on the metal storm door with its beak. After a moment, the door opened and the chicken went in.



Answers

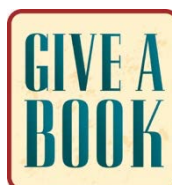
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|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. i. | 4. h. | 7. b. |
| 2. g. | 5. f. | 8. e. |
| 3. a. | 6. d. | 9. c. |

Chess behind bars

Players know that chess is brilliant for boosting mental agility and beating boredom. And it's getting more popular inside and out. There are chess clubs in a number of prisons and two of them – at Wandsworth and Hollesley Bay – are about to compete in the first Intercontinental Online Championship for Prisoners. Good luck from Bookstuff!

If you're interested in learning to play or improving your game, ask around to see if there's a club in your prison.

www.giveabook.org.uk
www.prisonreadinggroups.org.uk



Prison Reading Groups

