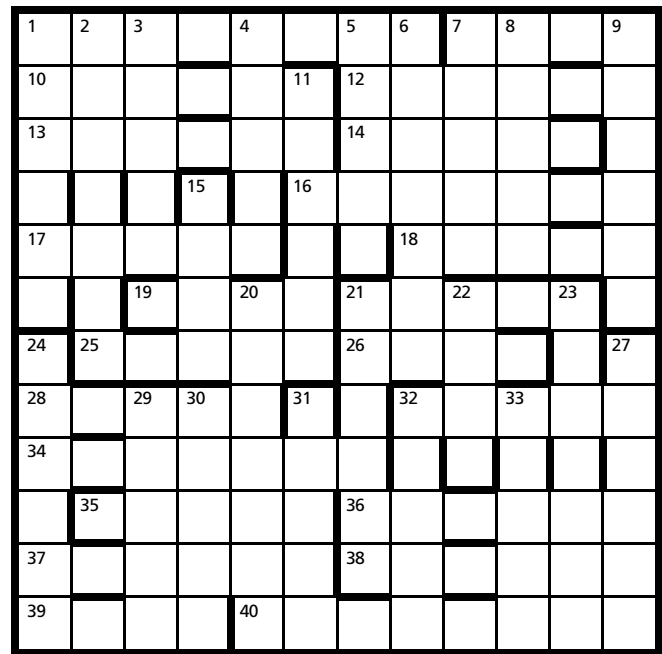


Play Schools by Trick

In the competitive reality show of this puzzle, each player will be given opportunities to steal three consecutive letters from one of the clue answers. Unscrupulous players will take advantage of these opportunities, replacing each triplet they steal with one new letter to disguise what they've done. The resulting grid entry will always be a new word; for instance, a player might steal MPL from SAMPLE and replace it with F, creating SAFE.

If an answer was offered up to a player for potential thievery, its clue will contain an extraneous word; use these words to identify the thieves. A few players (not many, sadly) are too virtuous to steal, so those answers will remain intact; but you should still be able to deduce the players' identities. When the puzzle is complete, go hunting for two diametrically opposed schools of thought: The mercenary credo of the unscrupulous players, as well as the more generous philosophy of the virtuous ones.



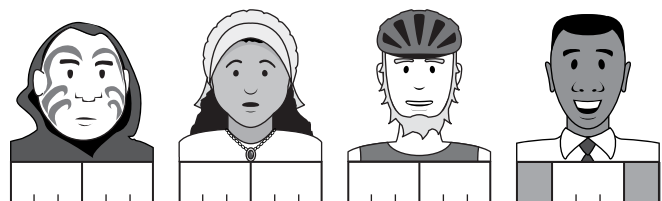
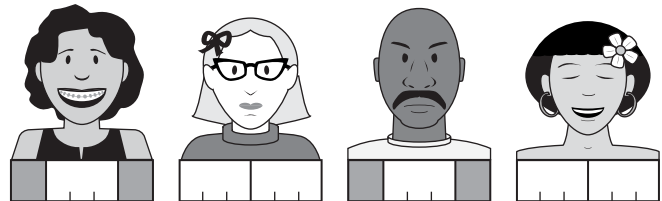
Across

- 1 Climbs small offspring of horses and donkeys
- 7 Jacket's arm braces broken levees
- 10 Harry Potter's owl head with artificial hair in the ears
- 12 Some of debauchees eating Blue Bonnet, for instance
- 13 Inquire after a lake and a state
- 14 Bring back imperial beer
- 16 Neatly-trimmed pigtailed Guy and I fixed
- 17 Sticks piece of ice in famous frontiersman's cap
- 18 Cross the empty pen
- 19 Battles involving zero Mohawk raids
- 21 *Hamilton* auditioned male singer
- 25 Suddenly attacks falsehoods, donning thick glasses (2 wds.)
- 26 Favored keeping or returning metal earrings
- 28 Low cry unraveled a stretchy fabric
- 32 Moving close to most divine freckles
- 34 Flower has made Dotty red-faced

- 35 151 Popeye's-head tattoos for each sailing ship
- 36 Inappropriate beard crudely drawn out
- 37 How jet streams blow ancient ribbon circling Saint Catherine's heart
- 38 Made allowances for average bowler, and finished below average
- 39 Additional pearls company received by mail
- 40 Hood fools around, passing and greeting advice columnist

Down

- 1 Rotten short contains first-rate shot
- 2 Prevented Hoffa almost getting led astray (2 wds.)
- 3 I ate up round baking potato
- 4 Ken is snarling "Tie some shoes!"
- 5 Powder keg's core sent up blaze of glory
- 6 Milliner supports Sunday break
- 7 Petition fences for one smooth link
- 8 Sly expressions Edward and Norman voiced
- 9 Meanders outside back of my fast-food restaurant



- 11 Most courageous goalie switched teams
- 15 Starship counselor engineered riot
- 20 Paints urban trains, coating handle
- 21 Unavailable URL extension secured by gratuity (2 wds.)
- 22 Wild West tavern readily accepts a large mustache
- 23 Governor catches street thief in cattle country
- 24 Explosives ruined sad green helmet
- 27 A. Lincoln's in-laws fighting (2 wds.)
- 29 *Crank*'s opening features excellent action sequence
- 30 Swim a river, rising fast
- 31 Robbery loot includes green gemstone pendant
- 32 TBS show broadcasting in bathroom
- 33 Came to floor receiving approval