

WORD EQUATIONS

SUSAN THORPE

Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England

thorpeds@hotmail.com

The letters are each assigned their alphabetical numerical value (a = 1 to z = 26).

The letters following the first letter are added or subtracted to equate numerically to the first letter.

3 LETTER WORDS

$$A = O - N \text{ (boy's name)}$$

$$B = U - S$$

$$C = A + B$$

$$D = I - E$$

$$E = D + A \text{ (girl's name)}$$

$$F = A + E \text{ (var. 'foe')}$$

$$G = U - N$$

$$H = O - G \quad H = U - M$$

$$I = D + E$$

$$J = O - E$$

$$K = -I + T$$

$$L = E + G$$

$$M = I + D \quad M = O - B$$

$$N = I + E$$

$$O = R - C$$

$$P = I + G$$

$$Q = U - D \text{ (Egypt)}$$

$$R = O + C$$

$$S = O + D$$

$$T = O + E$$

$$U = T + A \text{ (Japanese poem)}$$

$$V = I + M$$

$$W = H + O$$

$$X = Y - A \text{ (cricket-like insect genus)}$$

$$Y = I + P$$

$$Z = A + Y \text{ (dial. 'say')}$$

4 LETTER WORDS

$$A = B - U + T$$

$$B = O - R + E$$

$$C = A + G - E$$

$$D = A + L - I$$

$$E = A + R - N$$

$$F = A + R - M$$

$$G = O - L + D$$

$$H = A + N - G$$

$$I = V + E - R$$

$$J = A + D + E$$

$$K = E - N + T$$

$$L = A + M - B$$

$$M = E - L + T$$

$$N = O + D - E$$

$$O = N + Y - X$$

$$P = O - S + T$$

$$Q = U + O - S \text{ (whose)}$$

$$R = E + A + L$$

$$S = A + M + E$$

$$T = A - B + U$$

$$U = M + P - H$$

$$V = O + L - E$$

$$W = A + R + D$$

$$X = Y + S - T$$

$$Y = E + A + S$$

$$Z = E + T + A$$

5 LETTER WORDS

A = L - G + A - E

D = E - L + L - A

G = R - A - N + D

J = O + H + A - N

M = E - D + O - C

P = E + T - R + I

S = H + I - R + T

V = O + T + E - R

Y = A - B + A + Y
(Palindromicon)

B = A + R + B - S

E = I - R + I + E (19TH Cent. var. 'eerie'
OED)

H = E + A - R + T

K = I + N + G - S

N = G + A - I + O

Q = U + E + E - N

T = H + I + N - K

W = A + S - P + S

Z = E + B + R + A

C = L - A + C - K

F = E - L + T - S

I = T - E + M - S

L = E + A - N + T

O = P - I + U - M

R = O + U - N - D

U = S + I - N + G

X = I - R + I + X
(Palindromicon)

6 LETTER WORDS

A = U - N - T + I + E

D = U - F + F - L - E

G = R + O - C - E - R

J = A + C - O + B + S

M = A + S - T - E + R

P = A + D + D + L - E

S = E + A + L + E - D

V = A + N - D - A + L

Y = O - U + T - H + S

B = A + C - K + E + D

E = N + E + R - G - Y

H = O - R - N + E + T

K = I - D - N - E + Y

N = A - T + T - E + R

Q = U + A + C + K - S

T = H + R - O + N - E

W = A + L + K - E + D

Z = O + M + B - I + E

C = H - A + S - E - R

F = I + C + K - L - E

I = N - K + E - R + S

L = O - O + K + E - D

O = X - Y + G - E + N

R = A + T - T + L + E

U = S + H - E + R - S

X = A - N + N - A + X
(Word Ways May 1974 p94)