

DEEP ACROSTICS

ANIL

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Acronyms use the first letter of each word of a name. **Diacronyms** instead use the first *two* letters of names. While not yet called that, they featured in “Short People” in the November issue (09-291, 294). **Diacrostics** are diacronyms of whole sentences. Unlike acronyms, which usually have to be defined and memorised, diacrostics may be—and **triacrostics** often are—directly readable, especially if the context is known, the language is simple, or the sentence is a familiar quotation.

How many letters deep does an acrostic have to go before a majority of sentences are readable? Judge for yourself in this puzzle which progresses from single through five letter acrostics of the same collection of nineteen quotations. Tick each one at the first level at which you recognised it or perceived the gist of its meaning, though not yet word perfect. Tick twice when verbatim. Add up all the ticks÷level on a sheet of paper, throw it in the trash and declare yourself the winner.

A. MONACROSTICS (“acronyms”) Listed in order of length of the full quotation.

1. T b o n t b, t i t q.
2. B a t p f t s i t e.
3. M h l u w I b a r i t s.
4. ...o h t i w b t—t r c o t S.
5. W m a h t o w s a a h s.
6. B n t f b w t n i t, n y t l t l t o a.
7. W k a o w w k l; w k d i.
8. B f h l f t s u a b ' e, a l f h l f, a s a i.
9. G y r- b w y m, O T i s a-; a t s f t s t, t w b d.
10. L o g m a r u w c m o l s, a, d, l b u f i t s o t.
11. S w i B l t n, i c c a s s, a a t b o d a b m i h a a h e.
12. T i t w o t h a a S S h a t r a h l i t C- S I.
13. S w d n a p m, n i b a c... I I h f i m l, a i m s a f, a a t s a e s l.
14. I i f t f t d o e t n f s i, a t m n a t g w t n o a i o t.
15. I m t w a e t r a m o t a e, w s q w w s a s t t a s l o p a i!
16. F s a s y a o f b f o t c a n n, c i l a d t t p t a m a c e.
17. S t g c o m I b t a m i o t a o t f o t p b g a s e o t i p t b v a s u.
18. A, C, C a I m h f e; b u w d t c o o g d? U f. J a f H e u l; a t t v d m w d f H.
19. I i r t a e a t m o t m o M, t h f t E C, R, t t s s b h l l t o C, w o t p t o a; b t i n t s t t u t r i r t n.

B. DIACROSTICS

(Giving the author is a sign-off, meaning it's now too obvious to carry to the next level.)

1. T o b e o r n o t o b e, t h i s t h q u. — Shakespeare.
2. B l a r t h p o f o t h s h i n t h e a.
3. M y h e l e u p w h I b e a r a i n t h s k.
4. ...o n h o t h i t w o b e t o—t h r e- c r o f t h S u.
5. W e m u a l h a t o o r w e s h a s a l h a s e.

> Don't read this page until finishing the preceding page. <

6. Be no th fi by wh th ne is tr, no ye th la to la th ol as.
7. We kn ac on wh we kn li; wi kn do in.
8. Bi fl ha li fl th si up an bi 'em, an li fl ha le fl, an so ad in.
9. Ga ye ro-bu wh ye ma, Ol Ti is st a-f: an th sa fl th sm to, to wi be dy.
10. Li of gr me al re us we ca ma ou li su, an, de, le be us fo in th sa of ti.
11. Sh wa in Be li th ni, in cl cl an st sk; an al th be of da an br me in he as an he ey.
12. Te is **th wo of th ho** as as St St si hi at th ro aw hi la in th Ch-Sy In.
13. St wa do no a pr ma, no ir ba a ca. If I ha fr in my lo, an in my so am fr, an al th so ab en su li.
14. It is fa to fi th di of ev th ne fi st in, an to ma no at to gr wi th nu of at in on th.
15. If mo tr we as ea to re as ma of th ab ex, we sh qu wr wh se an sw to tr an sa lo of pa an in!
16. Fo sc an se ye ag ou fa br fo on th co a ne na, co in li an de to th pr th al me ar cr eq.
17. Si th ge ci of ma I be th ar mo in of th ab of th fr of th pe by gr an si en of th in po th by vi an su us.
18. Al, Ca, Ch an I my ha fo em; bu up wh do th cr of ou ge de? Up fo. Je al fo Hi em up lo; an to th ve da mi wo di fo Hi.
19. It is re th as ea as th mi of th mo of Ma, th hi fr th Et Ci, Ro, to th so sm bu ha le lo to of Ca, wa op to pu tr on ag; bu th is no to sa th tr up th ro im re to no.

C. TRIACROSTICS

2. Ble are the poo for the sha inh the ear. — Jesus
3. My hea lea up whe I beh a rai in the sky.
4. ...one hop tha it wou be tod—the re-cre of the Sun.
5. We mus all han tog or we sha ass all han sep.
6. Be not the fir by who the new is tri, nor yet the las to lay the old asi. — Pope
7. We kno acc onl whe we kno lit; wit kno dou inc.
8. Big fle hav lit fle tha sit upo and bit 'em, and lit fle hav les fle, and so ad inf. — Swift
9. Gat ye ros-bud whi ye may, Old Tim is sti a-fl; and thi sam flo tha smi tod, tom wil be dyi.
10. Liv of gre men all rem us we can mak our liv sub, and, dep, lea beh us foo in the san of tim.
11. She wal in Bea lik the nig, in clo cli and sta ski; and all tha bes of dar and bri mee in her asp and her eye.
12. Ten is the wor of the hou as ast Sto Ste sit hig ato the roc awa his lau int the Chr-Syn Inf.
13. Sto wal do not a pri mak, nor iro bar a cag... If I hav fre in my lov, and in my sou am fre, ang alo tha soa abo enj suc lib.
14. It is fas to fin the dis of eve the nea fix sta inc, and to mak no att to gra wit the num of ato in one thu.
15. If mos tri wer as eas to rea as man of the abo exa, we sho qui wri who sen and swi to tri and sav lot of pap and ink!
16. Fou sco and sev yea ago **our fat bro** for on thi con a new nat, con in lib and ded to the pro tha all men are cre equ. — Lincoln
17. Sin the gen civ of man I **bel** the are mor ins **of** the abr of the fre of the peo by gra and sil enc of tho in pow tha by vio and sud usu.
18. Ale, Cae, Cha and I mys hav fou emp; but upo wha do the cre of out gen dep? Upo for. Jes alo fou His emp upo lov; and to thi ver day mil wou die for Him.
19. It is rec tha as ear as the mid of the mon of Mar, the hig fro the Ete Cit, Rom, to the som sma but har les lov tow of Cap, was ope to pub tra onc aga; but thi is not to say tha tra upo thi roa imm rev to nor.

D. TETRACROSTICS > Don't read this page till finishing the preceding. <

3. My hear leap up when I beho a rain in the sky. — Wordsworth
4. ...one hope that it woul be toda—the re-crea of the Sun.
5. We must all hang toge or we shal assu all hang sepa. — Franklin
7. We know accu only when we know litt; with know doub incr.
9. Gath ye rose-buds whil ye may, Old Time is stil a-fly; and this same flow that smil toda, tomo will be dyin. — Herrick
10. Live of grea men all remi us we can make our live subl, and, depa, leav behi us foot in the sand of time. — Longfellow
11. She walk in Beau like the nigh, in clou clim and star skie; and all that best of dark and brig meet in her aspe and her eyes.
12. Tens is the word of the hour as astr Ston Stev sits high atop the rock awai his laun into the Chro-Sync Infu.
13. Ston wall do not a pris make, nor iron bars a cage... If I have free in my love, and in my soul am free, ange alon that soar abov enjo such libe. — Lovelace
14. It is fash to find the dist of even the near fixe star inco, and to make no atte to grap with the numb of atom in one's thum.
15. If most tria were as easy to read as many of the abov exam, we shou quit writ whol sent and swit to tria and save lots of pape and ink!
17. Sinc the gene civi of mank I beli ther are more inst of the abri of the free of the peop by grad and sile encr of thos in powe than by viol and sudd usur.
18. Alex, Caes, Char and I myse have foun empi; but upon what do thes crea of out geni depe? Upon forc. Jesu alon foun His empi upon love; and to this very day mill woul die for Him. — Napoleon
19. It is reco that as earl as the midd of the mont of Marc, the high from the Eterl City, Rome, to the some smal but hard less love town of Capu, was open to publ trav once agai; but this is not to say that traf upon this road imme reve to norm. — Howard Fast, *Spartacus* (first sentence)

E. PENTACROSTIC WHOLINESS

4. ...one hoped that it would be today—the re-creat of the Sun. — Frederik Pohl and C. M. Kornbluth, *Wolfbane*
7. We know accur only when we know littl; with knowl doubt increa. — Goethe
11. She walks in Beaut like the night, in cloud clime and starr skies; and all that's best of dark and brigh meet in her aspec and her eyes. — Byron
12. Tense is the word of the hour as astro Stony Steve sits high atop the rocke await his launc into the Chron-Syncl Infun. — Kurt Vonnegut, *Between Time and Timbaktu* (Only Vonnegut fans had any chance here.)
14. It is fashi to find the dista of even the neare fixed stars incon, and to make no attem to grapp with the numbe of atoms in one's thumb. — J.B.S.Haldane
15. If most triac were as easy to read as many of the above examp, we shoul quit writi whole sente and switc to triac and save lots of paper and ink! — Anil (August, 2010)
17. Since the gener civil of manki I belie there are more insta of the abrid of the freed of the peopl by gradu and silen encro of those in power than by viole and sudde usurp. — Madison

(optional) ANSWERS to

DEEP ACROSTICS, Anil

1. To be or not to be, that is the question.
2. Blessed are the poor for they shall inherit the earth.
3. My heart leaps up when I behold a rainbow in the sky.
4. ...one hoped that it would be today—the re-creation of the Sun.
5. We must all hang together or we shall assuredly all hang separately.
6. Be not the first by whom the new is tried, nor yet the last to lay the old aside.
7. We know accurately only when we know little; with knowledge doubt increases.
8. Big fleas have little fleas that sit upon and bite 'em, and little fleas have lesser fleas, and so ad infinitum.
9. Gather ye rose-buds while ye may, Old Time is still a-flying; and this same flower that smiles today, tomorrow will be dying.
10. Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us footprints in the sands of time.
11. She walks in Beauty like the night, in cloudless climes and starry skies; and all that's best of dark and bright meet in her aspect and her eyes.
12. Tense is the word of the hour as astronaut Stony Stevenson sits high atop the rocket awaiting his launch into the Chrono-Synclastic Infundibulum.
13. Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage... If I have freedom in my love, and in my soul am free, angels alone that soar above enjoy such liberty.
14. It is fashionable to find the distance of even the nearest fixed stars inconceivable, and to make no attempt to grapple with the number of atoms in one's thumbnail.
15. If most triacrostics were as easy to read as many of the above examples, we should quit writing whole sentences and switch to triacrostics and save lots of paper and ink!
16. Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.
17. Since the general civilization of mankind I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.
18. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I myself have founded empires; but upon what do these creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love; and to this very day millions would die for Him.
19. It is recorded that as early as the middle of the month of March, the highroad from the Eternal City, Rome, to the somewhat smaller but hardly less lovely town of Capua, was opened to public travel once again; but this is not to say that traffic upon this road immediately reverted to normal.

:::: vs. this shorter version, to avoid excessive repetition, which requires referring back to the quiz:

DEEP ACROSTICS, Anil (words of over six letters only)

1. question. 2. Blessed inherit. 3. rainbow 4. re-creation 5. together assuredly separately
7. accurately knowledge increases. 8. infinitum. 9. tomorrow 10. sublime departing footprints
11. cloudless 12. astronaut Stevenson rocket awaiting Chrono-Synclastic Infundibulum 13. freedom
liberty 14. fashionable distance nearest inconceivable attempt grapple thumbnail 15. triacrostics
examples writing sentences triacrostics 16. fathers brought continent conceived liberty dedicated
proposition created 17. general civilization mankind believe instances abridgement freedom gradual
encroachments violent usurpations 18. Alexander Charlemagne founded empires creations founded
millions 19. recorded highroad Eternal somewhat smaller traffic immediately reverted