X A notable X-lipogram in poetry can be found in George Henry Needler’s 1904 translation of the German epic *Nibelungenlied*. One 38,742-letter passage, beginning in the Sixteenth Adventure and ending in the Twentieth, contains nary an X. The longest prose example I found is a 35,028-letter stretch in the World English Bible revision of the *Book of Jeremiah*, beginning in the 34th chapter and ending in the 46th. A close runner-up is a 34,819-letter specimen in *Gods and Fighting Men: The Story of the Tuatha de Danaan and of the Fianna of Ireland*, arranged and translated by I. A. Gregory in 1905.

Y Finding an unambiguously fluent Y-lipogram in fully modern English spelling turned out to be quite a challenge. There are dozens of Y-lipograms from dance manuals, cookbooks, Biblical genealogies, medieval chronicles, and other texts which employ highly repetitive and/or archaic language. Perhaps the least contentious example is a 1,688-letter specimen from the 1913 *Popular Science* tome *The Boy Mechanic, Volume 1: 700 Things For Boys To Do*.

Z Eugene Mason’s prose translation of the Medieval historiographic poem *Brut* includes a Z-lipogram of 141,151 letters—nearly half the length of the poem.

References


POETIC QUIZ

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Naples, Florida

Grab a bite
At the site –
Coffee and toast
Cost the most –