"AMARANTH"

The White Rabbit had come back. Evidently, the Duchess had forgiven him for his tardiness, as he was quite cheerful. ("Which is a blessing," thought Alice to herself, "for now, perhaps, he will not be so nervous.")

He had just started to explain to her the reason for the Mock Turtle's secret sorrow, when a terrible uproar broke out, apparently from just over the hill. "Come on," motioned the White Rabbit, "they are at it again." Seizing Alice by the hand, he pattered swiftly up the hill and down the other side. Here there was a good-sized piece of ground, much larger than the Queen's croquet ground, entirely surrounded by a low fence. As they tiptoed up and looked over the fence, Alice saw that the ground was divided into squares, some white and some black. The black squares were all empty, but on and across some of the white squares there was a multitude of birds, beasts, and fishes, with others occupied by men and women, and many different objects. Some of them were standing upright while others were lying on the ground, and they all seemed to be joined together in a most perplexing manner.

"What a very curious place," commented Alice, as they began walking slowly along the fence. "What are all these creatures doing in there?"

"This is the Queen's Crossword Puzzle Park," replied the White Rabbit. "It is the very latest fad. It has been very popular for quite a good long time with the boneheads, and now the crowned heads have taken it up."

As Alice looked more closely, she saw that all the creatures and objects in the Park were formed of letters spelling their names, and that each one was provided with a sort of garment or covering, in some cases quite thin and gauzy, so that it could easily be seen through, in other cases almost impenetrable. "What are those cloaks that they seem to have?" she inquired.

"Oh, those are their Definitions," expatiated the White Rabbit. "They have to have them to hide in when the Solvers come. If they didn't, the Solvers don't get them away and Solvers don't go and the EMU a from the libra-

The White Rabbit corner, Alice an noise came from hind himself to most doleful cri
"It's the EMU usual today."

"And so would she shrank a lit Puzzle day after to glare at the s day and it isn't much as they d other scream, the Alice was mu she queried the the time, does it

"Oh, don't pi hasn't nearly as As they turned standing on his an EEL and was please," she star

"But I don't here just the same know half the the days I am comp like fish, or a a black slipper!"

Wiping her eye (her deeply), Alice for with one ex on their square fine-looking ma

"He, too, is alw

Alice and th presently observe seemed quite do why they were

WORD WAYS
The White Rabbit was going to continue, when they heard renewed damor
from the Park. As all the animals and people seemed to be looking toward one
corner, Alice and the White Rabbit ran around to that side, and found that the
noise came from a large, heavily-feathered bird with long legs, trying to reach be­
hind himself to peck a smaller bird with a wry neck, at the same time uttering the
most doleful cries.

"It's the EMU," shrugged the White Rabbit. "He seems to be more vicious than
usual today."

"And so would you be vicious," shrieked the EMU, starif~
so hard a-t Alice that
she shrank a little closer to the White Rabbit, "if you were kept in a Crossword
Puzzle day after day and never allowed out. Besides lhat,"-and the EMU turned
to glare at the smaller bird once more-"they have given my tail to the YUNX to­
day and it isn't fai;r. It is really the GNU's turn, but they don't use him half as
much as they do me; and now to be linked with a YUNX! Ugh!" And with an­
other scream, the EMU dashed his bill angrily and sank to the ground.

Alice was much distressed. "Why do they impose on the poor thing that way?"
she queried the White Rabbit.

"It doesn't seem fair to make him stay in there all
the time, does it?"

"Oh, don't pay any attention to him," me' White Rabbit reassured Alice. "He
hasn't nearly as mnch to complain of as the EEL. There he is, sobbing right now."

As they turned the corner and looked over the fence, Alice saw an old EEL
standing on his tail and weeping bitterly. She had never had any conversation with
an EEL and was in some doubt -as to the proper way of

"But I don't please," sobbed the EEL; "I don't please at all, but they keep me
here just the same. More than that, they keep changing my Definition until I don't
know half the time who I really am. My scientific name is ANGUILLA, but some
days I am compeliled to pose as an apodal fish, or as an elongated fish, or a snake­
like fish, or a lamprey, or a moray; I have even been forced to masquerade as a
black slipperl" During the EEL's lamentations, big tea,rs had been roll Lng down
his Definition, and he was now standing in a deep puddle of salt water which, as
he was a fresh-water EEL, Alice suspected must be very uncomfortable.

Wiping her eyes (she was most tender-hearted and the EEL's plight had moved
her deeply), Alice noticed th_at the EEL's grief .seemed to be generally contagious,
for with one exception, all the creatures got up and began circling slowly about
on their squares, uttering the most mournful cries. The exception was a large,
fine·lookin~ man with a shining face-. "Tbat is RA:' explained the White Rabbit.

"He, too, is always in here, but he is used to it now and never complains."

Alice and the White Rabbit resumed their stroll along the fence, and Alice
presently observed a number of tiny creatures wearing dunce caps. All of them
seemed quite downcast and so unattractive in appearance that Alice wondered
why they were there.
"Those," said the White Rabbit in answer to Alice's timid question, "are the Abbreviations, Prefixes, and Suffixes. They really don't belong here at all, but they get in occasionally—like weeds in a garden, you know."

They walked on. "Look!" the White Rabbit suddenly exclaimed, "now you'll see some fun!" As he spoke, Alice was surprised to see a number of queer-looking objects come running up to the fence, peering eagerly into the enclosure. All of them had long, pointed noses and very large, prominent eyes. Every once in a while, one of them would reach over the fence and drag the Definition off a word, whereupon all the rest shrieked their delight.

"Those are the Solvers," explained the White Rabbit. "Now you know why the words must have Definitions: so that the Solvers won't get them all. They capture a good many as it is."

Just then, their attention was attracted by loud screaming from a distance. The White Rabbit looked apprehensively over his shoulder. "It's the Queen," he whispered to Alice, twitching his whiskers nervously, "and she's obviously cross again."

It appeared to Alice that the Queen must be very cross, indeed, for she was shrieking "Off with his head!" every few seconds. A dead silence had fallen over the Park—not a word was to be heard.

"They are all scared to death," confided the White Rabbit. "They are afraid of being beheaded. Even the EMU, with all his troubles, wouldn't like that, since it would change his nationality."

"What would be then become?" inquired Alice.

"Why," said the White Rabbit, "he's an Australian, and if he lost his head, he'd turn into the 12th letter of the Greek alphabet."

"Oh, yes, I see," replied Alice. She really didn't see it at all, but considered it more polite to pretend that she did.

Actually, Alice thought the whole matter extremely confusing, and as her head was starting to ache, she proposed that they walk back to the daisy bank.

On their way, the White Rabbit told her that, after having heard the Queen, she could well understand why the enclosure was called a Cross Word Puzzle Park.

"Yes," agreed Alice, "I imagine they are described as crosswords because they belong to the Queen and she is so cross, but where is the sense in it all?"

"Ah!" ejaculated the White Rabbit, as he hurriedly glanced at his watch and pulled on his kid gloves, "that, my dear, is the puzzle!"

And with a parting twitch of his whiskers, he popped down the rabbit hole under the hedge.

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**A FOREIGN MENU**

If you happen to be a gourmet trying to learn the Romanian language, you will be entranced by this bit of conversation:

ASA ? OI, ŢAP SĂLBATIC, UNCROP, SOS, PORC, NUCI ? . . . TABLA SPĂŢIOAŞĂ!

("Is that right? Sheep, wild goat, mulled wine, sauce, pork, walnuts? . . . A capacious tray!")

What fascinates us about these particular comments is that they form a 47-letter palindrome, reading the same backward as forward.

**WORD WAYS**

The solution of JOTT is a player mentally laying down for word chosen by announcing a first in reply the number of words to guess the other.

One good strategy is to use five words spelling such a series of groups of letters as exists. Clearly, the five words spell out: 23

When JOTT is playing all but one but hopeless. It words using 23

VIXEN-WALT-FIGHT-JUNK

With a subst the 24-letter and CURVE-F.

unusual words sound; ZIMBS-
teau; and a QV