A crossword puzzle should be symmetrical. The diagram on the following page certainly is -- even though it looks more like a maze than a crossword puzzle.

You are asked to solve it backward; that is, enter each word right-to-left (back) or bottom-to-top (up). For example, if the answer to Back 14 were ALARM (It isn’t), enter MRALA with the end A at intersection 14.

If you can’t think backwards, you could do the puzzle upside-down; but you wouldn’t do that, would you?

As you work on this crossword puzzle, you will soon discover that the words in it share an unusual property. In fact, it is believed that the puzzle contains all words from Webster’s New International Dictionary, Third Edition of six or more letters having this property:

9 letters: 43 back
8 letters:
7 letters: 15 back, 29 back, 58 back, 13 up, 14 up, 41 up, 42 up
6 letters: 9 back, 10 back, 5 up, 6 up, 28 up, 31 up, 48 up, 49 up

If you discover any words not in this puzzle, please let us know.

The solution to this puzzle is given in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue. The first column on the next page lists the definitions corresponding to the right-to-left words (back), and the second column lists the definitions corresponding to the bottom-to-top words (up).

Good hunting!
Atmore, Ala

One after the week’s soccer match, I turned down the street in front of me with a heavy heart. The aroma of spices made my stomach rumble. I couldn’t help but notice the ones resembling a dictionary sitting on my shelf.

I observed the dictionary, syllable by syllable. I wondered about the English which had been so well-loved.

At that moment, I set the folio down. Contrary to expectations, words were not to be allowed. The dictionary was a sacred book, and only one could be read:

I do not care for the shorter one.

age
aid
ain
aisle
ape
are