

# HOMAGE TO THE BILITERAL SOCIETY

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"Two cheers for the Biliteral Society!" I said after reading about its Dictionary of Two-Letter Words in the August 1984 issue of Word Ways. At last an official organization has recognized the importance of words that have a beginning and an end, but no middle to confuse things. In honor of the society's duplicity, I wrote a poem inspired by the diatomic nature of first-and-last-letter-only words.

The poem is a bifocal, binaural, bidimensional bisonnet, originally composed in binary notation, about the bias of a biparental biped wielding a bimetallic axe with his bifurcated biceps to smash a biconvex television set into biconcavity because of a certain bi-weekly program about a bipolar horse with bilateral bicuspid. It is biliteral, but not bilingual.

Most significantly, the poem is bidirectional: you can read it from left to right, row by row in the usual way - or from top to bottom, column by column. To double your pleasure, wait until a bicentennial year, and then read it with binoculars while riding a bicycle on top of a biplane with a streamer flying behind saying: "Two cheers for the Biliteral Society!"

MR	ED	IS	ON	TV	WE	GO	TO
ED	OH	MY	TV	SO	GO	KO	ED
WE	GO	AX	MY	TV	AH	HA	WE
GO	TO	MY	TV	GO	HA	HA	GO
TO	AX	TV	OH	HO	KO	ED	NO
DO	IT	GO	HO	HO	MY	TV	NO
IT	IS	AN	AX	AH	TV	BE	TV
TO	ED	AX	ON	SO	GO	ON	OW