

EMIT TIME ITEM

MICHAEL KEITH

Salem, Oregon

In any of the three texts below, select a word in the first line and use the word-stepping procedure described by Martin Gardner in the Aug 1998 Word Ways: count the number of letters in the word, step ahead by that many words, and repeat this process with each new word reached. The first word arrived at in the next-to-last line is always TIME, no matter what the starting word is. Try it!

Persuasion by Jane Austen

Start of Chapter 21

Anne recollected with pleasure the next morning her promise of going to Mrs. Smith, meaning that it should engage her from home at the time when Mr. Elliot would be most likely to call; for to avoid Mr. Elliot was almost a first object...

Danny's Own Story by Don Marquis (1912)

Start of Chapter VIII

The next day we broke camp and was gone from that place, and I took away with me the half of a ring me and Martha had chopped in two. We kept on going, and by the time punkins and county fairs was getting ripe we was into the upper left-hand corner of Ohio...

Emma by Jane Austen

Start of Chapter 43

They had a very fine day for Box Hill; and all the other outward circumstances of arrangement, accommodation, and punctuality, were in favour of a pleasant party. Mr. Weston directed the whole, officiating safely between Hartfield and the Vicarage, and every body was in good time. Emma and Harriet went together; Miss Bates and her niece, with the Eltons...