

COMPLEMENTARY LETTERS

“ANIL”

Perth, Australia

Complementary Letter Bigrams

The hidden DNA message in “The Oz Contradictionary: Part 2” in the May issue, EVOLVE BY LOVE, was decoded by modeling an alphabet:anti-alphabet array after the anti-parallel structure of the double helix to dictate 26 base pairs, i.e., the complementary letter bigrams az by cx dw ev fu gt hs ir jq kp lo mn nm ol pk qj ri sh tg uf ve wd xc yb ca. Tandemly combining some of these yielded the above message, plus three other phrases nicely relevant to the adjoining polyanagram poem “Biodiversity”. Can you find these? They involve two new words plus the above (see Answers and Solutions at the end of the issue).

What other words or phrases can be made from such concatenated bigrams? Is EVOLVE the longest such word? Is BY-EVOLVE a word? Or LOVERISH? Is there such a thing as a SHIRT-GLOVE? In a limited search I found no longer words nor any additional good phrases, whether relevant to the poem or not. But some amusing nonsense turned up, like this bizarre Star Trek episode: “Zap Kirk, Plover!” (I zap Kirk, puff up keV). The abbreviation keV is kiloelectronvolts, a unit of atomic energy. (We Plovers are a villainous race of obedient alien birdmen who use quantum-tunneling disintegration rays against invading captains of Enterprise.)

Does its limited potential explain why this is not a standard chapter of logology?

Complementary Letter Words

Is there more potential here, where each letter of a word is replaced by its complement (z for a, etc.) to yield another word? Two examples using proper names: **Tory** glib, and **love** Olev, which transposes back to love (all bigram words are such “selfers”). Excluding these I found *no* complementary words in a brief search. Can you?

However, I found several interesting anagrams of complementary words:

loves hovel

poll look

forty-five VL (I be guru!”)

dizzy raw AB (seasick neophyte sailor? Or bimbo stripper gets degree?)

“**Hi-O Silver!**” horse vril (vril is an occult life force or energy source in an early SF novel by Bulwer-Lytton, *Vril: The Power of the Coming Race*, 1871)

gold rush shit flow (**full of shit** flush our “go” or foul gush)

dollars (Whozoil?? Loo whiz!!)

word wild (a reversal)

follow loud “Lo!”

gremlin vormint (an almost!)