

HALF-ALFABED LIBAGLAMCE

ANIL

Perth, Australia

Half-alphabet lipograms (HALs) limit words to half of the alphabet. The title is limited to **A-M**. Any other way of dividing the alphabet in two is also included. The challenge is to convert ordinary prose into HALs by crook or innuendo and leave the text readable. Possible with some halves, not others. It might even be easy if one picked the choicest half of the 26 letters to lipogram. Ross Eckler did a Mary's Lamb with ACDEHILMNPRST (see 13-224). For phonetic spelling, I suggest a perhaps more generally usable 13, **ACEGHILNOPRST**, which with a little mercy can mimic the other 13 letters. Here's how the other half can be approximated: unchosen letter + (mimics from chosen letters): B (p), D (t), F (ph, eph), J (g, gi-ā), K (c, ch), M (n, nn), Q (ceoo, c), U (oo, o, ah/eh [as schwa]), V (ph, phee), W (oo, h, and as V with German accent), X (ecs), Y (ee, i, o-i), Z (s, sie).

Here are some lipogram quotes you will recognise,

- 1) with phonetic approximations of the original words, and
- 2) recomposed with substitute real words:

1) with A-M: Da be al mahd da be? Dad ice da kiecedim.

1) with choice 13: To pee or not to pee, that is the cuestion.

2) A-M: "I be? I lack be?" be all-I ask.

2) choice: To is or not to is, that is the poser.

1) A-M / choice: I dimk dalefal I am. / I thinc therephore I ann.

2) A-M / choice: I am belief I am. / I cogitate hence I is.

1) A-M: Dae-ah bud fa da glace a [Allah/Ghahd] gae I. [equal time clause]

1) choice: There pot for the grace of [Allah/Gott] go I.

2) A-M: Call me him if Allah lack me-belief.

2) choice: Not sharing the grace of Allah, there as he go I.

1) A-M: Me hard leabce ab fem I beheld a laimbaa im de cki.

1) choice: Niece heart leaps up ohen I pehold a rainpoh in the sch-i.

2) A-M: Me life glee climbs if a beam I beheld.

2) choice: One's heart leaps as one sees a rain-arc alit in the air.

1) A-M: Mahi had a liddle lamb, idc fleece ehahs heid aice cmah,
Amd ebeheefehe dad Mahi ehemd de lamb hahs ceiha da gie.
Id fallad heah da ckeal ame dae, ihich ic agaimcd da lheeal.
Id made da childem laff amd blaie da cie a lamb ad ckeal.

1) choice: Nari hat a little lanp, its phleece hoas hoight as snoe,
Ant epheriehuer that Nari ouent the lanp oo-ahs sure to go.
It pholloet her to school one tai, ooich is against the rool.
It nate the children laph an plai to see a lanp at school.

- 2) A-M: Mai had a li'l lamb, fleece bleached like ice.
 Mai amble made lamb amble.
 Mai hiked academic, lamb hiked like Mai, defied held academic belief.
 Lamb made child-game jig, giggle-glad, "Ha ha, academic lamb!"
- 2) choice: Nellie has a little sheep, its coat is pale as paper;
 As Nellie goes, little sheep goes.
 Sheep trails Nellie to school—against the legal setting.
 It set the little ones giggling, happiness-acting; "Ha ha, sheep at school!"

N-Z Lipograms

Chambers Anagrams lists 110,000 alphomes (words with their letters arranged alphabetically) of 3-15 letter words, names and phrases. It readily reveals that no common word of over 9 letters is composed purely of N-Z. The longest words, the 9s, are non-porous, stuporous and torturous, with only six 8s, twenty-one 7s, fifty-three 6s, seventy-one 5s, one hundred one 4s and seventy-five 3s, totaling 330 or a mere 0.33% of the total. Determining longest N-Z words is far easier than doing A-M. They are few and at the tail end of each size group. Is a decipherable N-Z Mary's Lamb possible using only real words? Most unlikely. A phonetic one too would be much harder than for A-M. But see below for an even more constrained N-Z go.

Keyboard/Alphabet Double Constraint Lipograms, or IS MUSIC LEFTIST?

Yes, music is doubly leftist! The letters of the music scale **ABCDEFG** are the only "doubly left" letters, keyboard and alphabet. So looking for doubly left A-M words reduces to looking for A-G words. Which reminds me of a personal anecdote let me bore you with. In junior high "music" class we were asked to see how many words we could make from the letters A-G. I found so many the teacher presumed I had cheated by working on it in advance. I got an F for the day and it cost me an A for the term. So from early on I've lived my life as one long misunderstood anagram.

Here's a feeble go at a Musical (ABCDEFG) Mary, mostly phonetic with some rewording:

Gae 'ad a edde caf, feece faed ac cdeo,
 Ed ebaee fea Gae gae, caf def. gae.
 Caf faedded Gae ad cgea a dae—dad'c agag da cade!
 Ed caaced de cads da gag an dadce da cee a caf ad cgea.

Doubly Right Lipograms

The only doubly right letters are **NOPUY**. With explanatory notes and your forgiveness, here's a doubly-right Mary:

Poppy + puny pup; no pop upon pup.
 Poppy > yon, pup > yon.
 Poppy > yon pony, pup > yon pony—"No, no, no!"
 Pun: yuppy pup-pup-pup "Yup-yup!" you, puny puppy.

Pop= coloured drink, ie colouring. Pony= school book, ie, school. Yuppy pup-pup-pup= young upwardly growing kids. Yup-yup = mock. The pun is that pup refers to both types of youngsters, puppy and yuppy.

