

4) GREG'S ANAGRAM-THEMED PUZZLE

Flatfoots

In which we investigate all kinds of dastardly wordplay.

National Puzzlers' League "flats" are a unique style of verse puzzle in which several words have been replaced by "cuewords," capitalized words that function as placeholders for the answer words.

Combine the six boxed answer words, in order, to form the clue for the anagram puzzle below.

1. HOMOPHONE

Homophones are words that sound the same but are spelled differently, like *right* and *write*. Several of these homophones are borrowed from other languages.

I was born the wrong time and I've got a passé social attitude.

Some songwriters saved me. I B them a real debt of gratitude.

"A, Lady Be Good," wrote the Gershwins—I fully agree!

It's good to drink deeply a snifter of fine C-de-vie!

When Crosby and Kelly sing gaily the joys of D monde,

I love to join in, for of Cole Porter's work I am fond.

And nothing will send me like music from Irving Berlin.

If "Top Hat" and tails is so wrong, well, I'll happily sin!

A =

B =

C =

D =

2. PADLOCK

In this puzzle the last five letters of FIRST are the same as the first five letters of SECOND. When you remove those overlapping letters from both words—as if they overlapped and were "padlocked" together—the remaining four letters (two from FIRST and two from SECOND) form THIRD. For example, RUSHING + SHINGLE = RULE.

Back in the '70s I was a FIRST,

In mind-body-spirit was fully immersed.

*Tried Ram Dass and Buddha, and old Edgar Cayce,
Theosophy, tantra and anything spacy.
If you were a bettor you'd surely have SECOND
That if it was kooky to me it'd've beckoned.
What caused this behavior, this passion absurd?
These fads filled a void in me, met some deep THIRD.
Today I'm more grounded, these trends I've reversed,
But back in the '70s I was a FIRST!*

FIRST = _ _ _ _ _

SECOND = _ _ _ _ _

THIRD =

3. CURTAILMENT

A longer word (in this case a proper noun) has its last letter removed (curtailed) to make a new word.

*"If a thing isn't yours, son, you cannot just take it!"
Or so Putin's mother would scold her young Vlad.
When Russia took LONG, though, no country could make it
Retreat. It's a SHORT, but says Putin, "Too bad!"*

SHORT =

LONG = _ _ _ _ _

4. FIRST-LETTER CHANGE (LOON, MOON)

DELETION (MOST, MOT)

In a first-letter change, the first letter of a word is changed to another to form a new word. In a deletion, one letter is deleted from inside a word to form a new word.

*While MOST and LOON are MOT in nature
Friendship isn't out of MOON,
Like when they're animated creatures
In that 80's Disney 'toon.*

MOST = _ _ _ _ _

MOT =

LOON = _ _ _ _ _

MOON = _ _ _ _ _

5. PROGRESSIVE TRANSDELETION

The title sounds complicated, but the wordplay isn't. Start with a seven-letter word, in this case a capitalized word. Remove one letter and rearrange the rest to make a new word. Continue removing a letter, then rearranging, to form a series of new words, the last of which is three letters long. (The five-letter word is a proper noun; the six-letter answer is two words, often capitalized.)

*Although you won a Tony for The Rink,
And Spider Woman was your second score,
It's West Side Story that's your biggest THREE.
For sixty years you've scratched your theater FOUR.
Dear FIVE Rivera, you should take a break!
Try yoga, SIX, Qigong—or go abroad,
Sip SEVEN 'neath a setting Tuscan sun.
Such well-earned recreation we'd applaud!*

SEVEN = _ _ _ _ _

SIX = _ _ _ _ _

FIVE = _ _ _ _ _

FOUR = _ _ _ _ _

THREE =

6. REPEATED LETTER CHANGE

Every instance of a letter that appears more than once in the first word is changed to a new letter to form the second.

*My books are alphabetical
By SECOND on my shelf.
To mix them is heretical.
I check them all myself.
Today I see a lack—oy!*

What to do? I fear the worst!
*'Twi*x*t Beowulf and Black Boy*
Something's missing. It's The FIRST!

FIRST = _ _ _ _ _

SECOND =

ANAGRAM

Clue, formed from the boxed answer words above:

_ _ !	_ _ _ _	_ _ _ _ _	_ _ _ _	_ _ _	_ _ _ _ _
A	THIRD	SHORT	MOT	THREE	SECOND

This is a clue to a five-word '90s television show. The letters in the clue can be rearranged to form the title of that show, which is _ _ _ _ _: _ _ _ _ _ .