

## Victorian Puzzles and Riddles - March 2020

The following puzzles were all taken from a Victorian Magazine specially compiled for young people. They were originally published around 1870.

The idea was that these would, initially, be available both in the Museum and online and that the answers would be published at the end of the March Recipe from the Victorian Kitchen.

Unfortunately, the Coronavirus put paid to all these plans for the foreseeable future.

So, because of this situation the answers have to be published at the same time as the puzzles. Don't cheat! Only look at them when you're completely stuck.

Some of the puzzles are easier than others, so solving them can be an exercise for the whole family. Also remember that these are Victorian Puzzles and are at least 150 years old. Words fall out of fashion and at times change their meaning so be prepared to have to do some thinking!

**Word Play Puzzle** - You need to find two words with the same letters but when rearranged differently mean the opposite.

I am a word of letters five,  
If at my meaning you arrive  
I bind things fast together,  
One letter change,  
I loose them from each other.

**Buried Fruit** - Find the different fruits buried in each of these sentences.

1. The dog jumped in my lap, pleased to see me.
2. He gave the lad a tea chest to carry.
3. Tell me, art thou woman or angel?
4. The old coach came up lumbering along.
5. She gave him a sweet pea, choosing a fine one.

**Square Words** - These were a real favourite with the Victorians. If you haven't come across this type of puzzle before then an example is given to show you how they work.

**Example** - In each of these you have to find 4 words which match the clues given. Each word is written across and down the word square.

My first is oriental and as exotic as can be,  
My second is against all things, however good or free,  
My third a way to stop an ever flowing tide,  
My fourth when well spent gives a feel of pride

**Answer**

EAST  
ANTI  
STEM  
TIME

Now you have a go -

My first you will often meet in town or country road.  
And if my second you would go, T'will ease you of your  
load.

My third a trouble sore is found to men of slender pay  
My fourth a welcome shelter gives upon a sunny day.

**Riddle - What am I?**

Though Delicate and weak  
I'm wanting not in sense  
I do, though silent, speak  
And ever need defence  
By day I shun whate'er is bright  
And hang a curtain down at night.