

Victorian Puzzles and Riddles - June 2020

This is the fourth set of puzzles for you to have a go at. Remember they are all taken from a Victorian magazine for young people which was published around 1870.

If during these 'unprecedented' (what a well-used word that is!) times you are new to this page, then there are a few things you need to know. Many apologies to people who are frequent visitors.

These puzzles appeared around 1870/80 but may have been compiled earlier in the century. So remember words fall out of use and 'facts' change. Where I think there's likely to be confusion I do give you a clue or a hint. The puzzles may be 'cruel'; I'm not! And when you're battling with a knotty problem, trying to resist the siren call of Mr Google, just remember your Victorian ancestors didn't have this resource at their fingertips.

Answers will be published on a separate page so have a go at these Puzzles and Riddles before taking a crafty peek!

And if you're looking for things to do at this time why don't you check out Mrs Bird's page for some Victorian recipes you could make. They're all tried and tested. Just go to -

www.nottinghamindustrialmuseum.org.uk/victorian_world/

and you'll find lots of recipes with some information about each of them.

Now get your Puzzle head on and see how well you do with these.

Riddle

What is the subject of the following appeal and its accompanying reply? It was addressed to the illiterate inhabitants by one of our fair correspondents! (the exclamation mark is my addition)

Appeal

Whereas by you I have been driven
From house, from home, from hope, from heaven
And placed by your most learned society
In ills and anguish and anxiety,
And charged without one just pretense
With avarice and impudence
I here demand full restitution
And beg you'll mend your elocution.

Reply

Whereas we rescued you, ingrate
From hunger, havoc and from hate
From horsepond, hanging and from halter
And consecrated you in altar
And placed you where you would never be
In honour and in honesty
We deem your talking and intrusion
And will not mend our elocution

Square Words

(Again, if you're new to this then look back at the March set and you'll find an example of how to solve these favourite Victorian Puzzles.)

My first when storms are raging fierce around
The traveler longs to be,
A little word my second in whose sound
No sweetness will you see,
Sharpness to smooth and roughness to dispel
My third will be your choice,
The bliss and beauty of my fourth to tell
All powerless my voice.

Buried Flowers

Be careful with these. Some of these flowers have now fallen out of fashion.

1. I ate my roll up in a hurry.
2. They both are belligerents.
3. She took the child in her lap in kindly fashion.
4. 'Twas a romantic act, useless in its results
5. She was seen to be darning stockings from morning to night.

Decapitation and Curtailing

This type of puzzle is new to readers. So here's a brief explanation. You have to work out the answer to the first clue and then taking off one letter at a time either the first or the last letter (hence the name of this puzzle) and you eventually will be left with only one letter. Good luck!

Whole I am a hard substance,
Behead me and I'm a sound,
Deprive me of my tail and I'm a weight
Behead me again and I'm a preposition
Again, take off my tail and I'm an exclamation