Welcome to the Year of Puzzles

We’re very pleased that you’re joining us for the Year of Puzzles, a year-long puzzlehunt of eighteen unique, wonderful, interconnected puzzles from Puzzazz. Each puzzle in the Year of Puzzles will be a great experience by itself, designed to challenge you just right to maximize your fun.

The Year of Puzzles will be filled with puzzles that look like traditional puzzles as well as ones that don’t look like any puzzle you’ve ever seen before. Puzzlehunt authors love to create unique twists, so you might find a crossword mixed with a sudoku, a sudoku mixed with a word search, or a word search mixed with a maze, or you might see something that doesn’t look like a puzzle at all, like a TV schedule, a pile of candy hearts, or a pizza. In the end, they’ll all combine to form a larger, year-long puzzle through what’s called a metapuzzle, which wraps up the puzzlehunt with a satisfying conclusion.

The Year of Puzzles is a collaborative effort of the entire Puzzazz team. The puzzles during the year will be a mix of puzzles from the best outside constructors and folks here at Puzzazz. For the story of the Year of Puzzles, we’ve signed up Emily Dietrich, author of the Puzzazz puzzle mystery book The Case of the Missing Mask and other stories, and the novel Holding True.

We hope you enjoy the Year of Puzzles as much as we’re enjoying creating it.

Roy Leban
Puzzazz Founder

The first puzzle in the Year of Puzzles is free.

To purchase the rest of the Year of Puzzles, please visit http://puzzazz.com/yearofpuzzles
Dawn in Seattle

You hear a groan, a groan climbing out of a throat still half asleep. It’s not a groan of pain, exactly, more of confusion. Your throat feels scratchy and you put your hand on it. When the groan stops, you realize you yourself had been making the sound you heard.

Eyes still closed, you reach for the glass of water you had left on the nightstand the night before.

Wham! Your nightstand grew at least eight inches overnight and someone sanded it smooth, too. You reach to turn on the light and your knuckles ding a metal lamp.

What the . . .? You sit up and rub your hands over your face.

You’re sure you did not turn the light on, but it is bright in here, bright light, not the low-key brightness of your bedroom. This light is making you squint, and the light is . . . everywhere.

As your eyes adjust, you realize you are not at home. A gigantic bed, some kind of huge bigger than a king, stretches out around you. The wall in front of you is all window, and all light, but not as bright as you’d thought, just dominant.

Your head snaps back. Is that the Space Needle? Seattle?

You hear a tiny swish and track it with your eyes. An envelope appears under the door.

You start to sprint toward the door — or at least that’s your intent — but your legs aren’t quite awake enough yet. By the time you reach the door, the hallway is empty. Standing in the doorway, you can hear yourself breathing heavily. At least this sounds familiar, you think.

You pick up the envelope and pad back to the bed. The spring in the carpet feels good against your bare feet, but that’s weird. What are you doing in a hotel room in Seattle with high thread count sheets and plush carpets?

The manila envelope is unsealed and unremarkable, the paper inside less so — a letter and an unusual spirally puzzle.

You read the letter:
Good morning! I don’t imagine that you feel too energetic at the moment, so we’ll supply the zip by starting out with an extremely sincere thank you. It took us a long time to find someone with your unique set of skills — you may well be the only person in the world who can help us.

Throughout this endeavor, which could easily take a year, you have our promise that your safety and comfort will be our top priority. You will have the best accommodations we can find, and all of your worldly needs will be taken care of, wherever this search may take you.

If you don’t remember what we’re talking about, please accept our apologies. The sleeping agents we used on you sometimes have the unfortunate side effect of temporary amnesia. For now, let us tell you that we need you to solve a series of puzzles, each in a particular location. Don’t forget to keep track of all your answers — you’ll need them at the end. We’d tell you more, but now you know as much as we do. We’re counting on you to figure it all out for us.

Puzzle Instructions

When completed, the grid will contain two series of words. The first series starts at No. 1, going outward on the left spiral and then continuing inward on the right spiral to No. 230. The second series of words starts at No. 230, going outward on the right spiral and then continuing inward on the left spiral to No. 1. Every space in the grid will be shared by exactly two answer words. Work from both sets of clues to complete the puzzle.

When you are finished, read the shaded letters in order from top to bottom to reveal a final clue. Save the answer to the clue in the boxes below — you’ll need it at the end of the Year of Puzzles.
Dawn in Seattle Clues

Left to Right

1-4 Minor setback
5-8 Went by horseback
9-14 Sponge made from a gourd
15-17 Finished a course?
18-25 This game show was first hosted by Art Fleming
26-29 Contained
30-33 Air Force 1 maker
34-37 Item usually worn on your non-dominant hand
38-44 Euphoria
45-51 Subject in English class
52-55 Hands on deck
56-60 Creature with a spiral shell
61-65 Kind of viper
66-71 TV show starring Nathan Fillion
72-76 { or }
77-85 Replaceable printer part
86-88 Seat around a campfire, maybe
89-91 Creature in Lord of the Rings
92-96 Turn down
97-99 Baaaad girl
100-104 Pretty flower
105-108 Belgium-based international org.
109-112 Nightmare for a babysitter
113-118 Where you are in this puzzle?
119-122 Chicago movie star?
123-132 Container on a breakfast table
133-136 Prefix with venom
137-140 Katz’s in New York, for one
141-145 Bug
146-150 Word on some Doritos bags
151-155 Don Giovanni is one
156-161 Alvar Aalto’s architectural style
162-164 Vinegar’s partner
165-167 Youngster
168-175 Spanish turnover
176-180 Starbucks size
181-185 Give My Regards to ___ Street (1984 musical film starring Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr)
186-190 Photoshop company
191-196 Capital of Croatia
197-200 Name in Californian and Mexican geography
201-203 Intense anger
204-209 Small restaurant
210-214 Dog, informally
215-220 Any of four teenage mutant ninjas
221-224 “This sentence no ___”
225-230 Like some heroes

Right to Left

230-228 Wildebeest
227-224 Give the cold shoulder to
223-219 Celebrate
218-214 It’s no lie
213-211 Sound like a dove
210-207 What’s left on a boat?
206-200 Home to some tigers
199-194 Talk endlessly
193-188 Park place?
187-184 Baby talk
183-179 Roundabout route?
178-173 State where the Burning Man festival takes place
172-170 An afternoon delight?
169-161 Type of jewelry worn as a pendant
160-157 Project that might be featured in Better Homes and Gardens
156-153 Basaltic plain on the moon
152-149 Character licensed by Disney in 1961
148-143 Grand place in Arizona
142-135 Exclamation after acing an exam
134-131 Type of iPod but not iPad
130-126 Race location
125-122 Beer garnish
121-116 Lament
115-110 Honey source
109-104 Study for plant enthusiasts
103-99 He killed Dumbledore
98-91 Classic movie monster
90-87 Alternative to K’NEX
86-84 Itinerary section
83-80 Cause of many stains
79-73 Vehicle going back and forth?
72-69 Bible follower?
68-63 Holy, as a bible
62-59 He famously said “I myself am surrealism”
58-53 A clue yields one
52-49 Stuff
48-44 Simpson’s character named after Matt Groening’s mom
43-41 Same old, same old
40-33 Like some jobs
32-27 It comes in a Paperwhite model
26-22 Monster slain by Heracles
21-19 Nevermore, he wrote
18-16 Tony in “West Side Story”
15-13 Word you might say when solving this puzzle
12-7 Hoodwinked
6-1 Large reed instruments

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