

William Cowper Cryptograms — Set 1

6 puzzles · Large print · answers on the last page

Every letter has been swapped for another letter. The same cipher letter always stands for the same letter, and no letter ever stands for itself. Write your answer in the blank under each letter. Answers are on the last page.

1. Clue: Y = E

Hard · 47 letters

P M Y I Y A R C

W J Y C R N I Y A G

W Z Y P A L W C A G R

U M A L M Z G J O W Z Y P R

X G Z U .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

2. Clue: P = I

Hard · 49 letters

P Z O O E F Z I B R E S

Z Y Y P X N I T W L , O L

I P K R J J R W I W P X

F E F W J E V P X G N J W .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

3. Clue: X = N

Medium · 57 letters

O U D P O B , V G X V Z F B G ,

O X I Y G B B - F P G I U O X

Y Z B B X D K O J J P D X K

U G , - O X I X D D K Q G P

H O X .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

4. Clue: U = T

Hard · 58 letters

K G L U O E O U I V U L

Y L B H X I V E Z S O X N ,

O U E X S V F U V L U O H R E ,

L R A O U E T L E U

F H R F N C R E ?

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

5. Clue: F = E

Medium · 59 letters

R U Y F A Z Y G N R N

Q X F N V Z J F E N C X U M

X I R F, A I R I T A Q I E

J N V V F X I X I E R N D

D N R Z J F X F.

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

6. Clue: M = E

Medium · 59 letters

Q M K P I W U E P G , K O G Q
T J M V M D J G P V S
G P E M , T X X M V G G Q M
E P X M I J P E Q O X
Z T H M Q O X P K E .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Solver's cheat sheet

Most common letters

E T A O I N S H R D L U

Most common 1-letter words

A I

Most common 2-letter words

OF TO IN IT IS BE AS AT SO WE HE BY OR ON DO IF ME MY
UP AN GO NO US AM

Most common 3-letter words

THE AND FOR ARE BUT NOT YOU ALL ANY CAN HER WAS ONE
OUR OUT DAY GET HAS HIM HIS HOW MAN NEW NOW OLD SEE
TWO WAY WHO BOY DID ITS LET PUT SAY SHE TOO USE

Common double letters

LL EE SS OO TT FF RR NN PP CC

Common word endings

-ING -ION -ENT -TION -LY -ED -ER -EST

After an apostrophe

T (don't) S (it's) RE (we're) VE (I've) LL (we'll) D
(I'd)

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Answer key

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1. "There is a pleasure in poetic pains which only poets know."

— William Cowper, 1785, *The Task*, Book II. *The Timepiece*. Line 285 (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

Cipher key: A=I B=Z C=A D=J E=B F=Q G=N H=X I=R J=L K=G L=C M=H N=U O=Y P=T Q=F R=S S=V T=D
U=W V=M W=P X=K Y=E Z=O

2. "I am monarch of all I survey, My right there is none to dispute."

— William Cowper, 1782, *Poems* (1782), *Verses supposed to be written by Alexander Selkirk* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

Cipher key: A=X B=C C=Q D=B E=O F=N G=P H=Z I=R J=T K=G L=Y M=K N=U O=M P=I Q=J R=H S=F T=W
U=W V=D W=E X=S Y=L Z=A

3. "A moral, sensible, and well-bred man will not affront me, - and no other can."

— William Cowper, 1782, *Poems* (1782), *Conversation*. Line 193 (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

Cipher key: A=U B=L C=P D=O E=G F=B G=E H=C I=D J=F K=T L=Y M=V N=Z O=A P=R Q=H R=X S=K T=J
U=M V=S W=Q X=N Y=W Z=I

4. "What is it but a map of busy life, Its fluctuations, and its vast concerns?"

— William Cowper, 1785, *The Task*, Book IV. *The Winter Evening*. Line 55 (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

Cipher key: A=D B=P C=R D=G E=S F=C G=H H=O I=B J=Q K=W L=A M=K N=E O=I P=J Q=X R=N S=L T=V
U=T V=U W=Z X=F Y=M Z=Y

5. "Silently as a dream the fabric rose, No sound of hammer or of saw was there."

— William Cowper, 1785, *The Task*, Book V. *The Winter Morning Walk*. Line 144 (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

Cipher key: A=N B=J C=B D=W E=F F=E G=Y H=Q I=O J=H K=P L=X M=C N=A O=Z P=K Q=D R=S S=G T=U
U=I V=M W=V X=R Y=L Z=T

6. "He would not, with a peremptory tone, Assert the nose upon his face his own."

— William Cowper, 1782, *Poems* (1782), *Conversation*. Line 121 (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

Cipher key: A=K B=Q C=X D=M E=N F=V G=T H=C I=U J=P K=W L=G M=E N=Z O=I P=O Q=H R=B S=Y T=A
U=D V=R W=L X=S Y=J Z=F