

William Cowper Cryptograms — Set 4

6 puzzles · Standard 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: P = O

Hard · 91 letters

W V P G V U A U V K U E E P

T K V R , W V P G H Y U H P K C P W

I V P B B K F D N Z X Q U H E

K F H P U G B H R O U C C E , T F I

D V P O K F D P C I K F

I V T O K F D F P H Y K F D Z B .

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: Q = E

Easy · 91 letters

D R T T Q T ! P B Q P H X Q P B H P

R G Q X H P Q P B R T X Q T T K V

T Q Q D T P K F H G G E , -

F B K K T Q V K P H X K V Q H

L G K L Q G D H P Q , O Y P

L G K L Q G P R D Q P K D H G G 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

3. Clue: D = E

Medium · 95 letters

W G S I B C Q G P X W Q X

D K T F G L K D J O X S W G K O W D

S G C F Z N B F F X Q Z F D , B J Z

S W G E P X O F L Q J C D O P C J

D X O D D K X O W B O H P X L

S G C F Z B J Q Z F D C O G G !

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: X = E

Medium · 96 letters

L X D Q Y P E S W D M M W X I

P X R X L S L G M X, Z A N M

H Y H M X X P O Y P A M X N,

W A Q Q F X A C M W X Y L S G L B,

D P Q S Y M W D S X F F - J L X Q

S W Y N C X L K F G N X M W X

N K X P 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

5. Clue: I = E

Hard · 101 letters

B O I I G C B O A G W V G J I W N

S G C H N Q W , B O G B B O I

V H T J N L J I W Q E B N C M

V G T , W B Q J H N Q W N L

K O G T R I G T J Y E I G W I J

A H B O T N S I E B M , V H R O B

X I H T J Q E R I J .

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

Easy · 113 letters

Y I Q D C M M S T R H A C H K N M
 I D S Y M L T K P ! N I L Z H O M P
 Q T S Y S Y M R Z M M P I D T S R
 D C T A Y S S Y M S M L Z M R S
 T S R M C D C H A R V M Y T K P ,
 H K P S Y M R Q T D S - Q T K A M P ,
 H O O I Q R I D C T A Y S .

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)

Answer key

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1. "From reveries so airy, from the toil of dropping buckets into empty wells, And growing old in drawing nothing up."

— William Cowper, 1785, *The Task, Book III. The Garden. Line 188* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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

2. "Misses! the tale that I relate this lesson seems to carry, - Choose not alone a proper mate, But proper time to marry."

— William Cowper, 1795, *Pairing Time Anticipated* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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

3. "How various his employments whom the world calls idle, and who justly in return Esteems that busy world an idler too!"

— William Cowper, 1785, *The Task, Book III. The Garden. Line 352* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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

4. "Reading what they never wrote, Just fifteen minutes, huddle up their work, And with a well-bred whisper close the scene."

— William Cowper, 1785, *The Task, Book II. The Timepiece. Line 411* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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

5. "The earth was made so various, that the mind of desultory man, studious of change and pleased with novelty, might be indulged."

— William Cowper, 1785, *The Task, Book I. The Sofa. Line 506* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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

6. "How fleet is a glance of the mind! Compared with the speed of its flight the tempest itself lags behind, And the swift-winged, arrows of light."

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

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