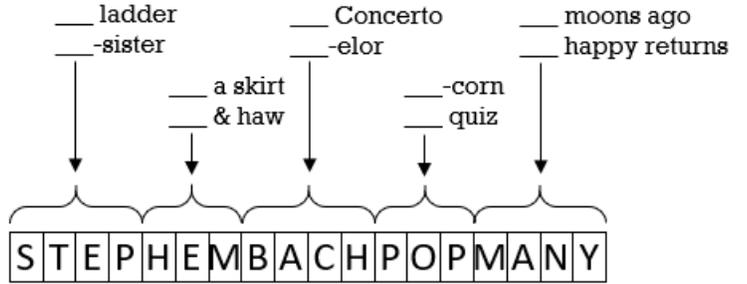


Unbridled Optimism

SOLUTION:

The five clue-pairs give the following five words

STEP HEM BACH POP MANY



If the L-shaped letter grid is cut and folded correctly it should look like a square paper spring shape like this:



The AHA in this puzzle comes from realizing that the letters are all paired off face-to-face within each fold. For example, R and M in the image below left, and E and P in the image below right. There are 13 such pairings to give the following cipher in order of appearance on the “spring”

S = H

C = G

K = W

T = O

U = Z

E = P

Q = D

Y = L

R = M

V = J

I = B

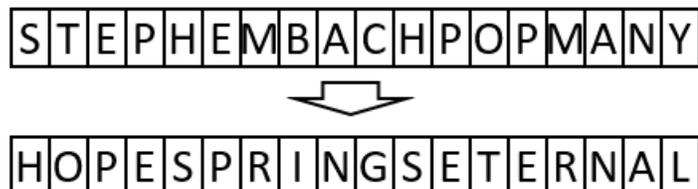
A = N

F = X



Using this cipher: changed the five words into the solution:

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL



Chillin' in the AC

Solution:

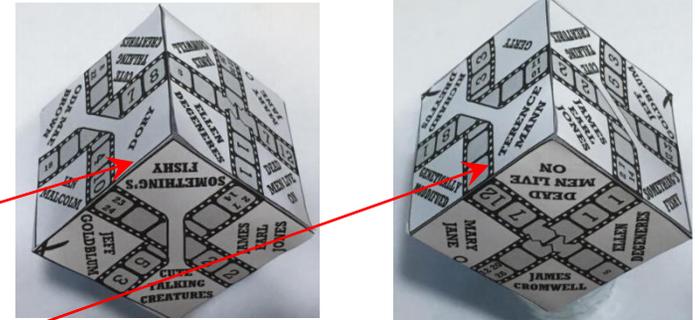
Once the six squares are cut out, there is only one way to arrange them into a cube such that each vertex (corner) contains a movie character, the actor/actress who starred as that character and a loose description of the movie that character was in. To add to the challenge, each of four movie descriptions is used twice. The correct match-up for the eight vertices are:

Arthur Hoggett (in Babe, James Cromwell, Cute Talking Creatures)
Gertie (in ET – the Extraterrestrial), Drew Barrymore, Cute Talking Creatures

Mary Jane (in Spiderman), Kirsten Dunst, Genetically Modified
Ian Malcolm (in Jurassic Park), Jeff Goldblum, Genetically Modified

Matt Hooper (in Jaws), Richard Dreyfus, Something's Fishy
Dory (in Finding Nemo), Ellen Degeneres, Something's Fishy

Oda Mae Brown (in Ghost), Whoopie Goldberg, Dead Men Live On
Terence Mann (in Field of Dreams), James Earl Jones, Dead Men Live On



These eight movie titles must be entered alphabetically in the upper right-hand grid:

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

Once this is done, the film strip wrapping around the cube gives the following sequence:

1,1^{2 7 14} 2,2^{10 17} 3,3^{11,15,25} 3,4³ 4,1¹⁸ 4,10^{23 24} 5,3^{4 19} 6,2¹ 7,2^{8 22}
 7,8⁶ 7,12⁷ 8,1^{9 13 16 21} 8,6^{12 20 26}

The two large numbers are the index: For example, 5,3 is movie 5 (GHOST) letter 3 (O), and the small letters show you where that letter appears in the solution (positions 4 and 19).

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

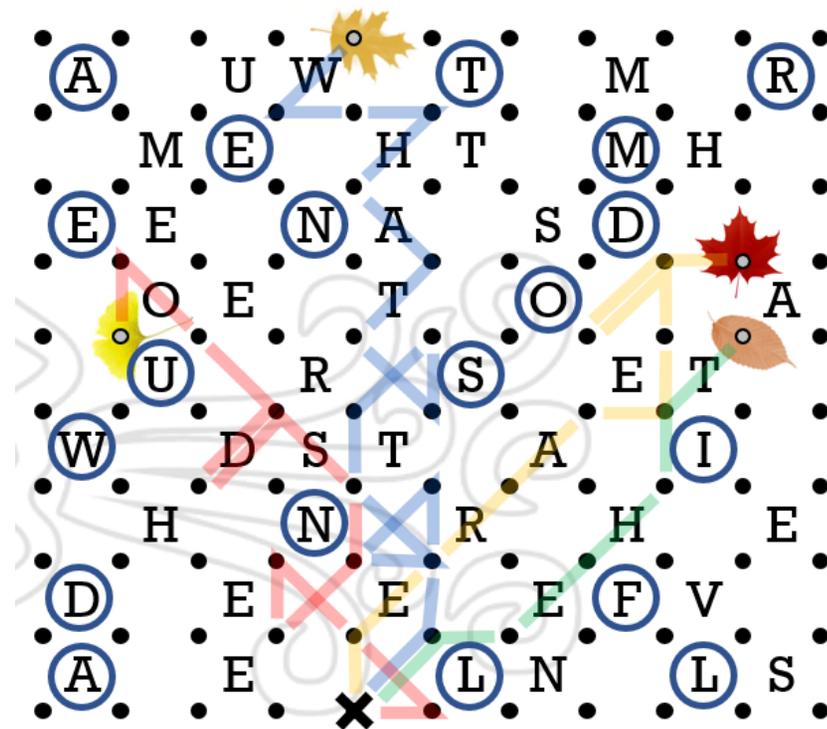
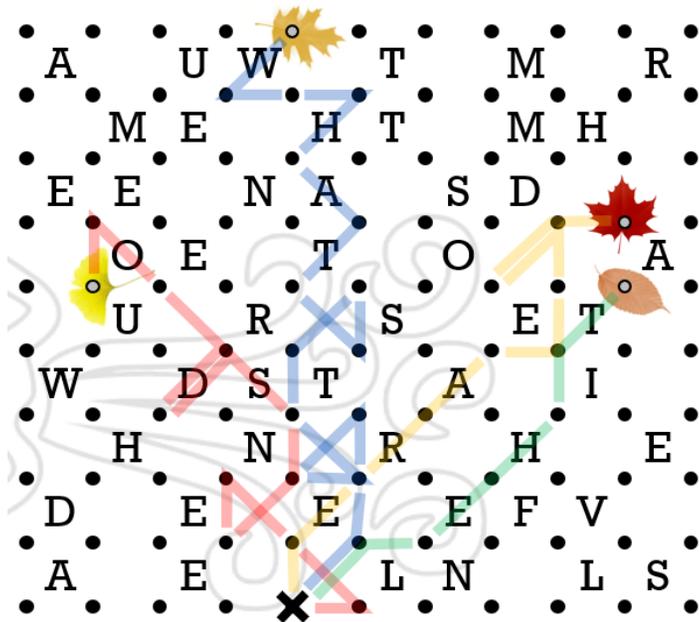
Final solve:

A	B	L	O	C	K	B	U	S	T	E	R	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	E	S	T	F	O	R	S	U	M	M	E	R
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Autumnal Gold

Solution: starting with each leaf, spell out its name in semaphore (first W-H-I-T-E -O-A-K in blue, then M-A-P-L-E in green, then E-L-M in yellow, and then G-I-N-K-G-O in red). Each letter is written in sequence picking up where the previous one ended and written such that the pen ends up below (down) or if that's not an option, then to the right (downwind) from where it started. These paths do slightly resemble the paths taken by a leaf falling to the ground, and they cross out the words "WHAT," "ARE," "THE" and "ODDS"

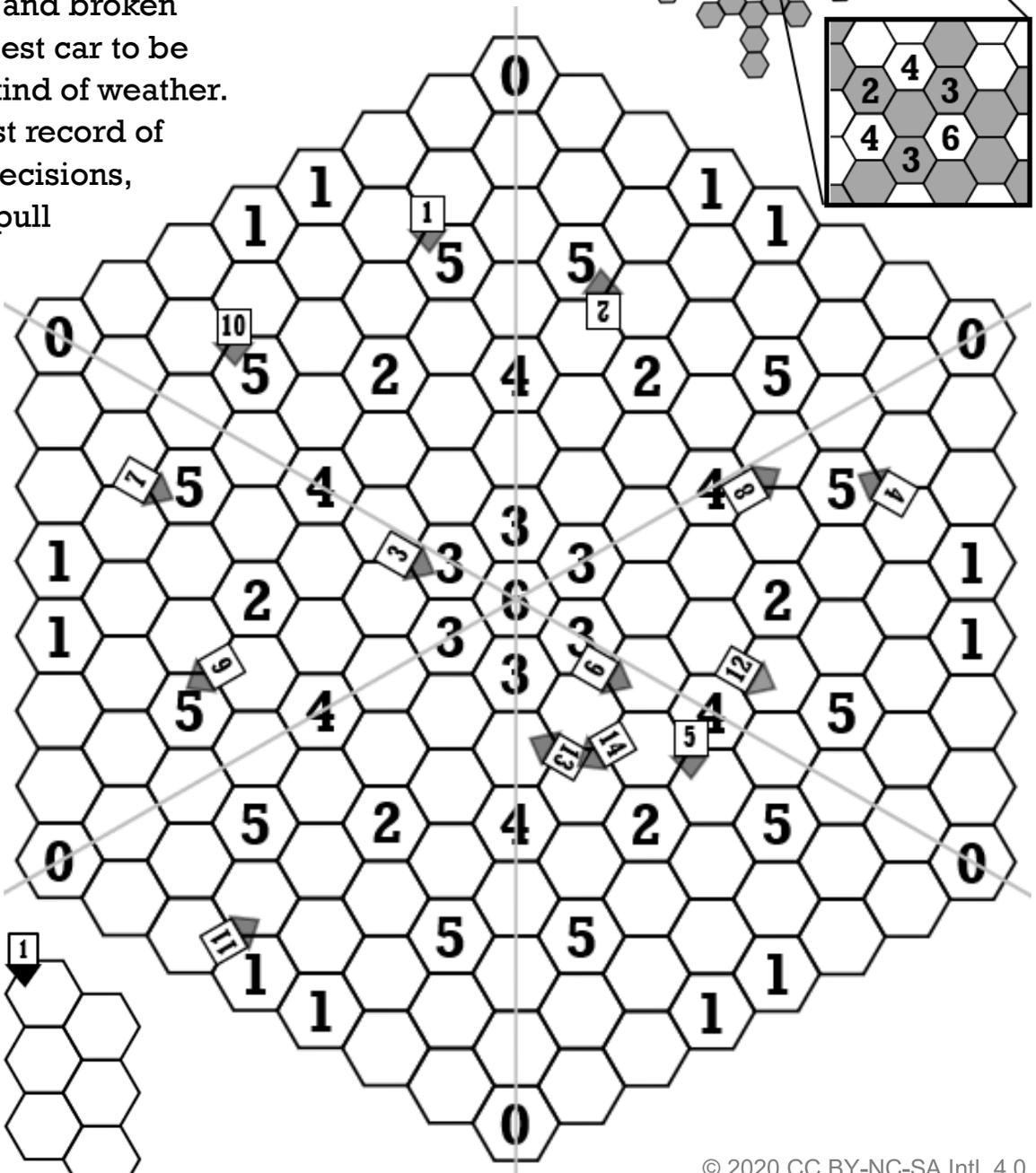
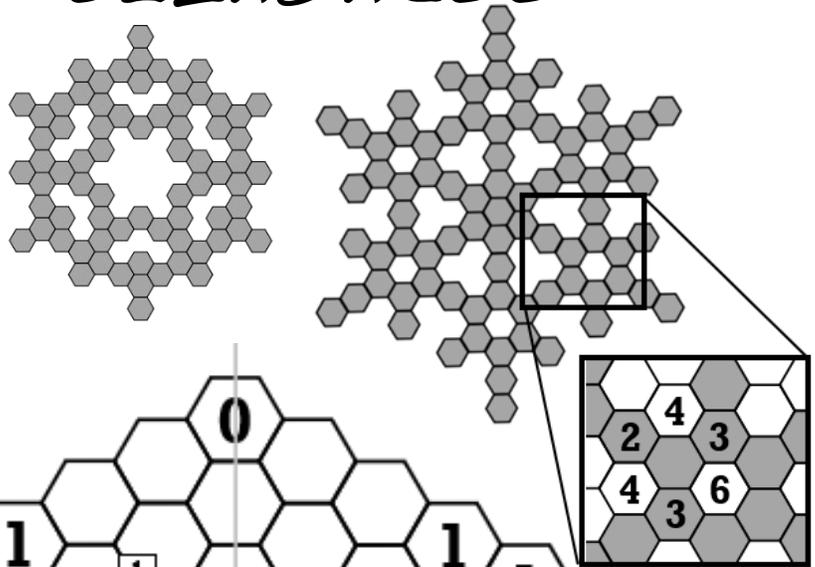
Then go back and look at just the odd letters that were not crossed off, and they spell out the solution: "A TREMENDOUS WIND FALL." And the even letters spell out: "UMM, THESE ARE THE EVENS"



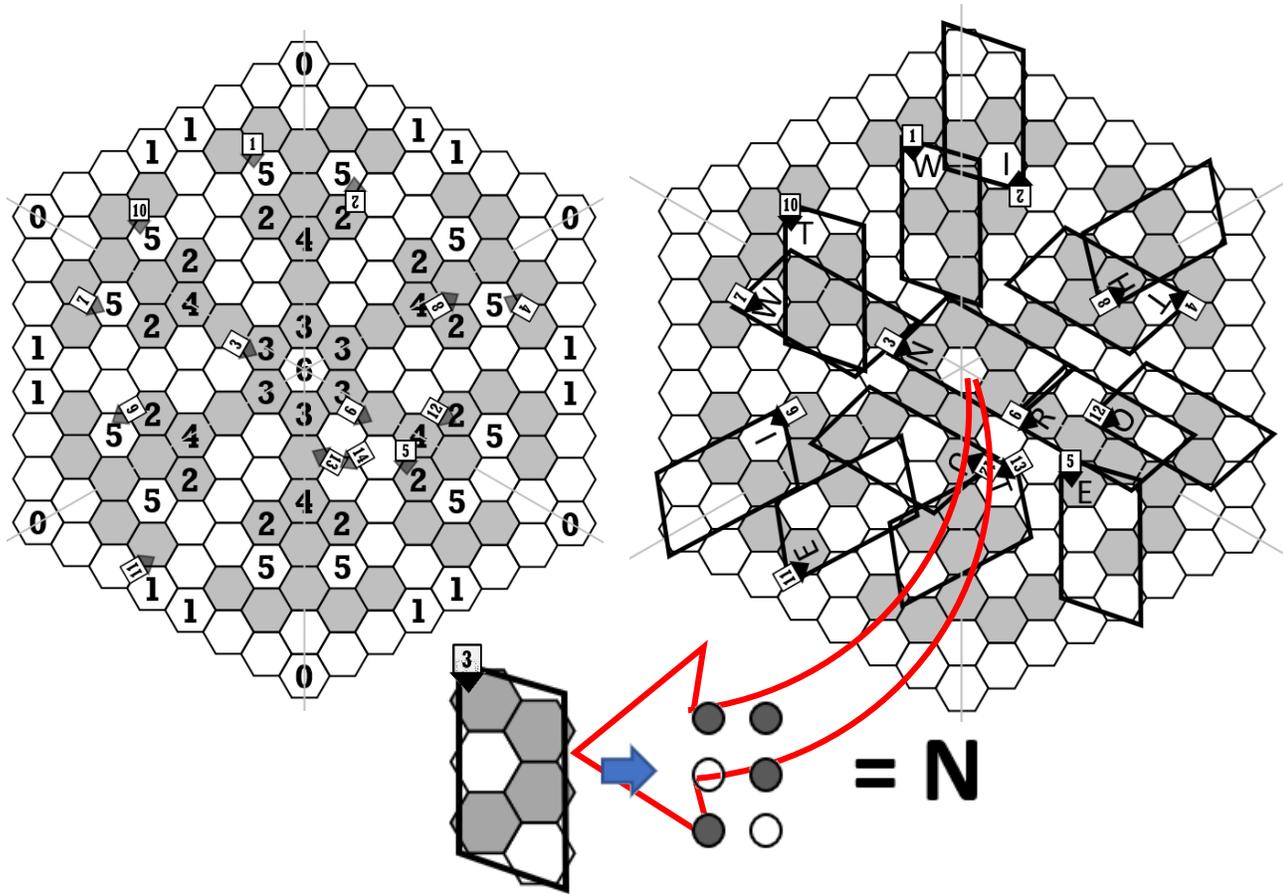
SNOW BLINDNESS

What a blizzard to be caught in! You can't see even one car length in front of you. And you just don't *feel the Datsun 280z* with bald tires and broken wipers is the best car to be handling this kind of weather. Given your past record of poor driving decisions, you decide to pull over and wait this one out.

And as you reflect upon the beautiful symmetry of a single, fully-connected, crystalline snowflake landing on your windshield, you wish there were some way to erase all those old mistakes and just start with a clean slate.



Solution: As the small sample illustrates, large numbers indicate how many neighboring hexagons are shaded in. Following the six-fold symmetry of the two examples, the pattern below (left) is the only solution for the snowflake. Each small number indicates the braille pattern (slightly distorted) for the two-by-three array of hexagons beside it. These arrays overlap and have different orientations, but the small number is always indicating the upper left hand corner of the array. For example, the 3rd letter is:



Repeating this for each of the fourteen arrays gives the solution: WINTER WHITEOUT.

META

Solution: The only way to insert the four solutions sequentially into the ellipse of circles and allow the necessary rhymes is shown below. When lines are drawn from the fourteen blocks to the drawing with which they rhyme, it crosses out many of the letters, revealing the solution: "JUST ONE MORE TRIP AROUND THE SUN." (The crossed-out letters spell out IGNORE THESE LETTERS.) Note also the letters are in an ellipse (the shape of the earth's orbit) and the center of that elliptical orbit is not a sun, but a son!

YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVOLUTION...

Where to start – that you need to figure out.
From there, it's all chronological and clockwise.
And if you block it out correctly, you'll find the
rhymes and reasons to these annual seasons.

Bonus - Turn, Turn, Turn

Solution:

Hopefully no flavor text – beyond the title “Turn, Turn, Turn” – will be necessary for solvers to see that each clue has a five letter answer that is present in the 10 x 10 letter grid but with a right-angle “turn” somewhere in the word. The clues are listed alphabetically by answer, which should be helpful. If they are lucky, solvers will notice early on that the last letter of each word in the grid serves as the first letter of another word. This creates a loop of the fourteen words, and makes finding the words quick and easy.

- BRISK The kind of walk one might take on a chilly autumn day (7)
- CELEB Red-carpet inhabitant during Oscar season (3)
- EIGHT Curvaceous ice-skating figure (2)
- FROST A cold-blooded bite that could cost you a finger or two (12)
- GRASS Kentucky blue, fescue or zoysia – keeping it green through the dog days (9)
- HATCH The very first thing chicks do in the spring (1)
- HAVOC Wreaked all over during hurricane season (13)
- ICING Hockey infraction and year-round cake topping (14)
- KHAKI Pants material best suited for warmer months (8)
- OCHRE The color of leaves in the fall or a natural clay earth pigment (4)
- PESTO A mouthful of garlicky, pine-nutty green summer goodness (5)
- SCARF Cold weather neck-wrap (11)
- TEETH Conventional wisdom: get these cleaned twice a year (10)
- TULIP A perennial Dutch harbinger of warmer days ahead (6)



But where do solvers go from there? They look at the “turns” – the letters in each word where the turn occurs. If these letters are then placed in order indicated by the numbers in parentheses after each clue (1-14), These letters spell out: THEREISASEASON. And the solution is **“THERE IS A SEASON.”***

*from the famous song “Turn, Turn, Turn,” written by Pete Seeger (quoting directly from the Bible!) in the late 1950’s and popularized by the Byrds in 1965.

