

This Puzzlelopolis belongs to:



Puzzlelopolis

by Gaurav Kulkarni

2CATS 2CURIOUS

A free puzzle booklet for fans of
word and logic puzzles

I am excited to share my absolutely darling cats with you, dear puzzler. My first cat is Juniper: a charmer who demands pets. For cat number two: a loved Sesame.

Though they can sometimes add rowdy chaos, I love my snuggly cats. The clearly best part of each day is sleeping beside these teeny cats. It's very cute when they latch onto us, believing we must never be alone.

So that is my bit, time for puzzles!

Dad says he fed us. Don't believe his lies.

(see "Secret Message" for more details)

Warmup Wordle

You need to figure out the fourth word in each sequence. The first three give you clues, wordle-style. Because I print at the library in black-and-white, we can't use the standard yellow and green.

Instead:

? means the letter is in the word, but in the wrong spot (yellow)

✓ means the letter is in the correct spot (green)

S?	W	E	E	T?
----	---	---	---	----

T?	R	A?	I	L
----	---	----	---	---

P?	I	N	T?	S?
----	---	---	----	----

P	A	S	T	A
---	---	---	---	---

in older printings, PASTE is also valid

B	A	D?	G	E?
---	---	----	---	----

P?	L	O	T	S
----	---	---	---	---

L	I?	N	E?	D?
---	----	---	----	----

P	R	I	D	E
---	---	---	---	---

L?	E	A	R	N
----	---	---	---	---

F?	R	A	C	K
----	---	---	---	---

M	E	S?	S?	Y
---	---	----	----	---

F	L	O	S	S
---	---	---	---	---

F	U	D?	G	Y
---	---	----	---	---

P	L	A	I?	D?
---	---	---	----	----

T	H	R?	O	W?
---	---	----	---	----

W	I	R	E	D
---	---	---	---	---

Juniper

Juniper entered my life in 2022, back when I was still single and living alone. She is the first pet I have had, and we have both grown so much together. Juniper is the most friendly cat you'll ever meet. She will be on your lap and licking you within minutes of meeting you. She also loves belly rubs. You may be conditioned to believe it's a trap, but it truly isn't. I think she was a dog in a past life.

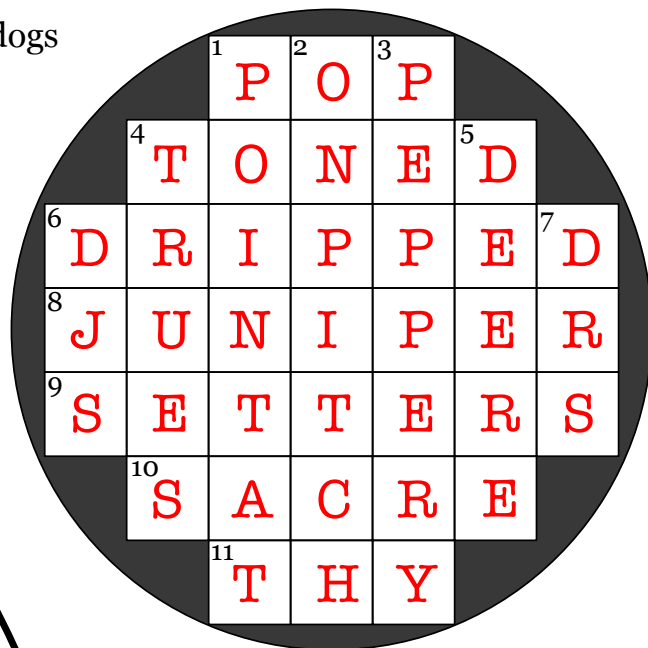
Across

1. Half of the iconic catch phrase by Magnitude in Community
4. In shape
6. Leaked, like an old faucet
8. Berry used to make gin
9. Some volleyball players, or some dogs
10. "____ bleu!"
11. "Love ____ neighbor"

Down

1. Draw attention to
2. Neither sharp nor flat

3. Like mustard greens
4. Aligns
5. Tractor maker
6. Spins
7. A.M.A. members



*"I meow,
therefore I am"*

- Rene Descats

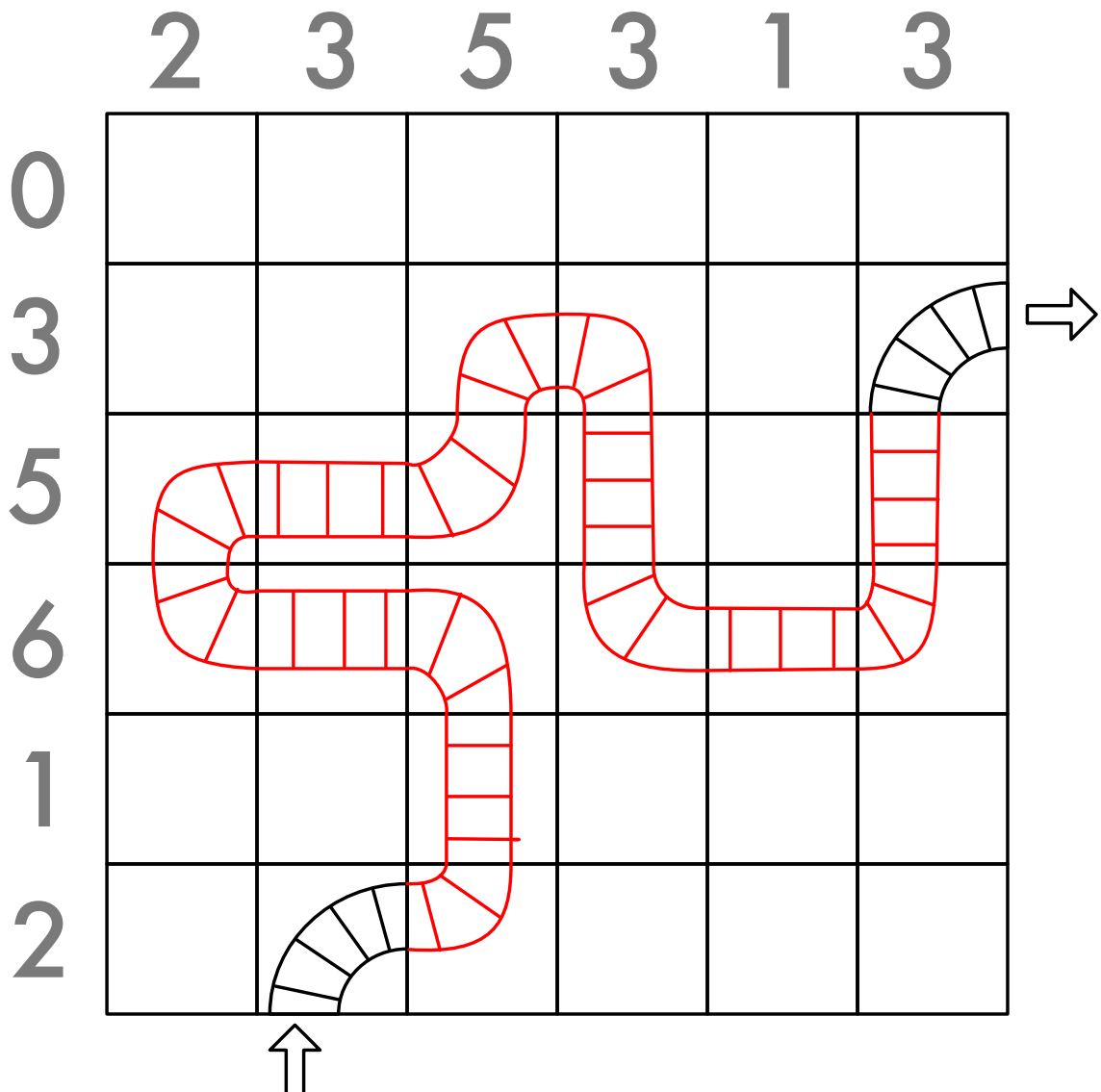
“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a cat in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a meal.”

- Jane Pawsten

Laying Tracks

Connect the two ends to make a winding train track! Each number on the outside of the grid tells you how many squares in that row or column have tracks in them (e.g. there are no train tracks in the top row)

Hint: It's helpful to first consider which squares do or do not have tracks in them. And then figure out which direction the tracks should go.



The Big Scramble

We're playing with anagrams in this puzzle. Each word is an anagram of the previous word + one letter. Use the clues and the letters to solve this one.

This one is tricky! If you get stuck, take a break and try again later.

Hint: I recommend using scrabble or bananagram tiles (or something more makeshift) to help rearrange letters.

S A T *Exam for a high schooler*

+ **C** **C A T S** *Furry friends*

+ **E** **C A S T E** *Oppressive Hierarchy*

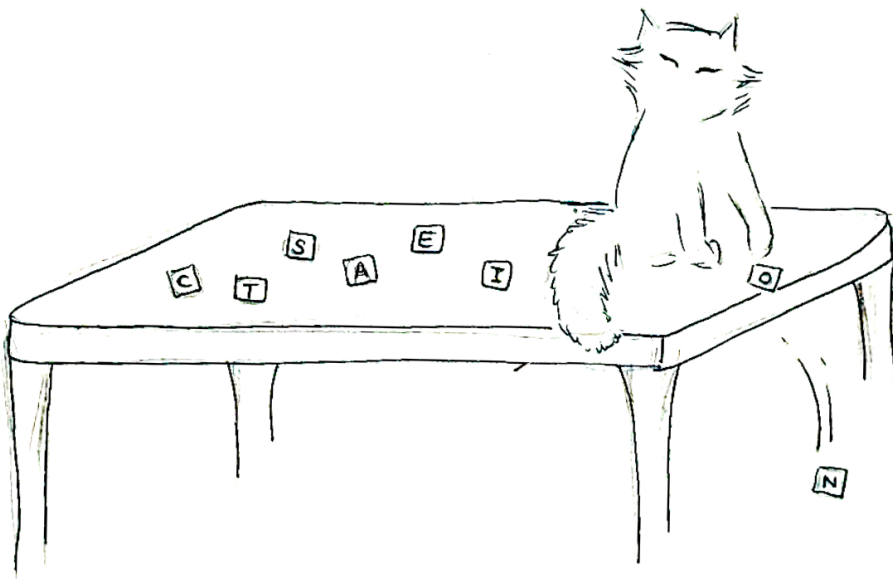
+ **L** **C A S T L E** *A way to protect the king*

+ **I** **E L A S T I C** *Stretchy, like a band*

+ **O** **S O C I E T A L** *Word before "norms"
or "pressure"*

+ **N** **C O A S T L I N E** *Perimeter of an island*

+ **A** **E S C A L A T I O N** *An increase in intensity
(kind of like this puzzle)*



Sesame

Sesame was the last to join our family. We had known for a while that Juniper needed a sibling. Then one day in 2024, I had just gotten out of a pretty rough job interview and I needed something to feel better. That's how we ended up at the Humane Society. Just to look, not to bring anyone home. But this silly black cat hopped right on my lap, so home he came. He gets overstimulated easily, and might give you a nibble. But he also loves to snuggle, especially under a warm blanket.

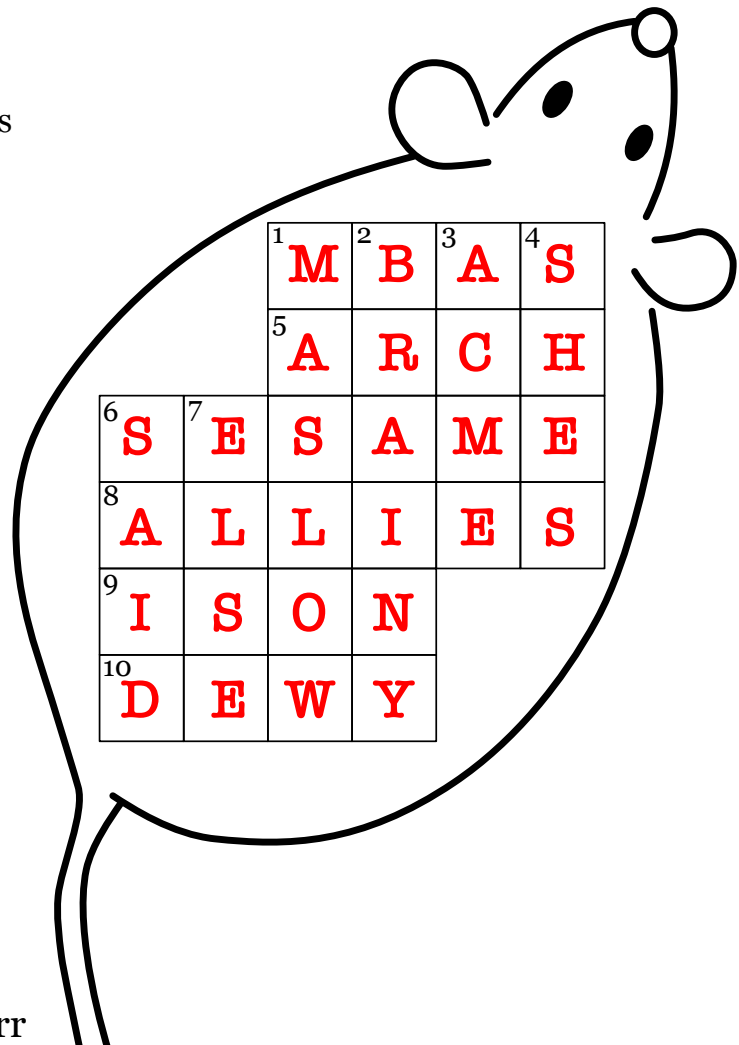
Across

1. Booth degrees
5. Part of a foot
6. Seeds that can be black or white
8. Friends
9. "Help _____ the way
10. Like morning grass

Down

1. Inventor of a hierarchy of needs

2. Like anyone who can solve a Puzzlelopolis
3. Wile E. Coyote's supplier
4. "____ All That" (1999 rom-com)
6. "That's what she _____"
7. It's counterpart, in programming



"To meow, or not to meow. That is the question."

- William Shakespurr

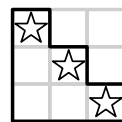
Secret Message?

Juniper and Sesame have hidden a secret message in the preamble at the start of this booklet! Which makes sense, it did sound a little awkward. The puzzle below will help you figure out their secret message.

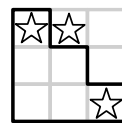
In the puzzle below, you'll be placing 16 stars ☆.

- Each row, column and section has exactly **two** stars.
- Stars are never directly next to each other (diagonal is ok).

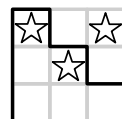
Use these rules to find the one valid set of stars. You can see examples of these rules to the right.



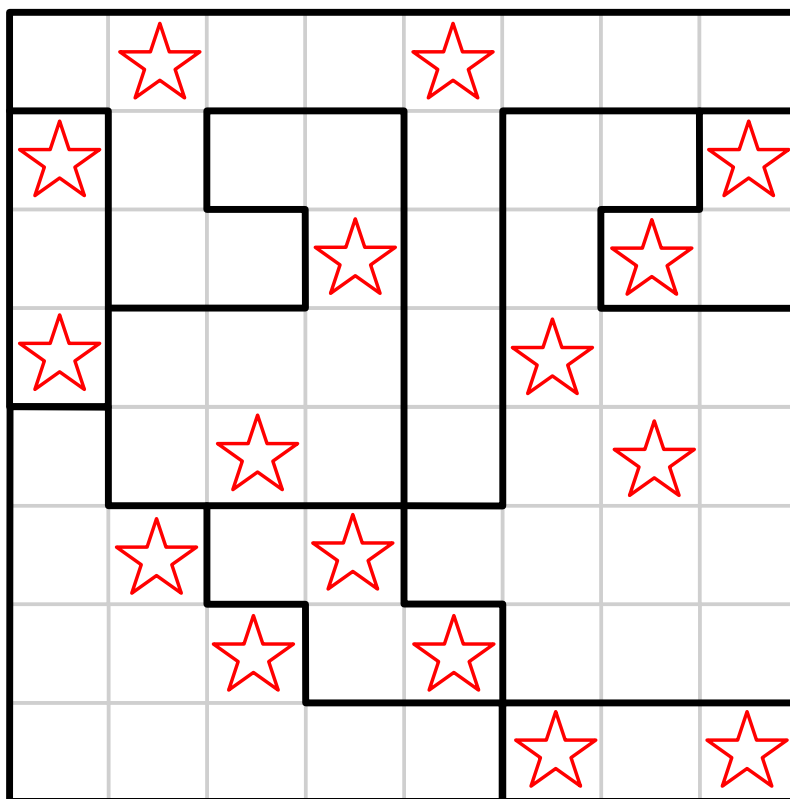
Invalid:
Three stars in one section



Invalid:
Two stars next to each other



Valid:
Diagonally adjacent stars are ok



Once you've filled in the stars, circle the corresponding letters in the grid on the right. Read the circled letters from left to right, top to bottom, to get **the key to decoding the cats' message hidden in the preamble on the first page of this booklet.**



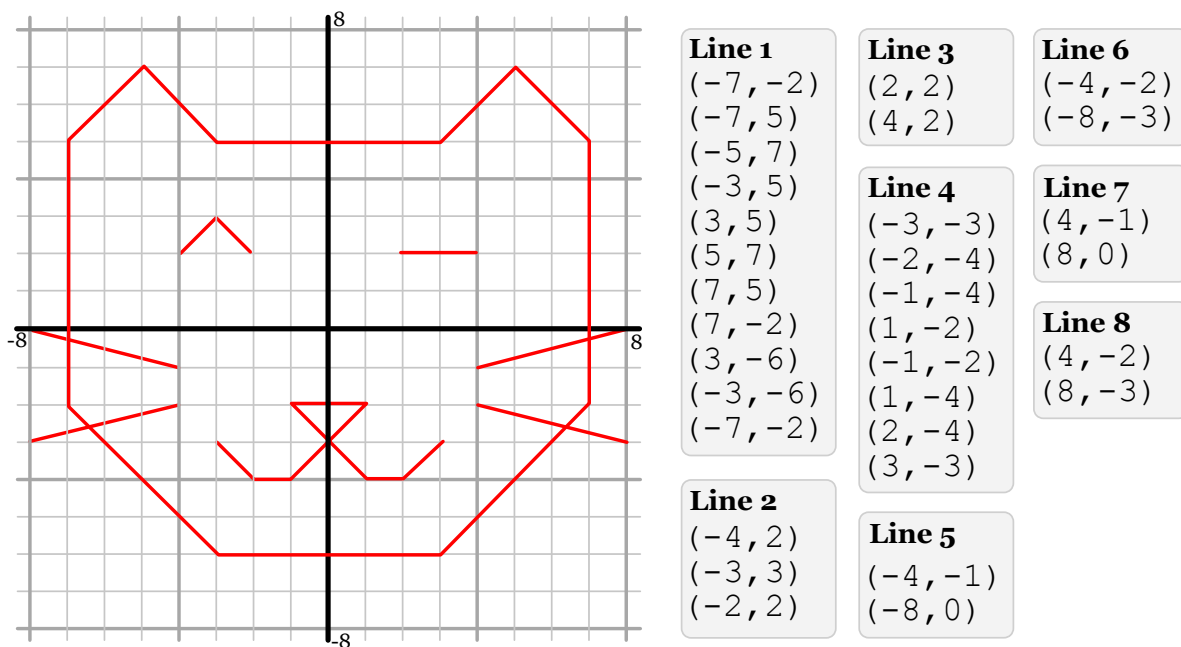
Key:

E V E R Y | T E N T H | L E T T E R

Midnight

Midnight is our bonus third cat! She is my wife Sarah's first cat, and they met before I was in the picture. Midnight is a tiny black cat with one eye, and while she's skittish around new people, she's a big cuddler once she gets comfortable. She needs to be an only cat, and so she now resides with Sarah's mother. Midnight is still in Ann Arbor, so we get to visit her often.

To celebrate Midnight, we have a graphing puzzle for you. For each line, connect each of the coordinates in the order they appear (and lift up your pencil between lines). You'll reveal a very special image. A straight-edge may help for this puzzle.



That's it for this issue of Puzzlelopolis. As always, I would love to hear from you.

And a big thank you to my wife *Sarah* for providing illustrations this issue!

Please email puzzlelopolis@gmail.com (note the spelling) with any of the following:

1. Requests for additional copies of either issue #1 or #2.
2. Suggestions for locations where I can distribute these.
3. Feedback or suggestions.
4. Kind words. Those really help keep up the motivation to continue making these!

Lastly, I have a new website: puzzlelopolis.com where you can subscribe to email updates to find out when issue #3 drops.
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Answers to this issue can be found at
puzzlelopolis.com/answers/2.pdf