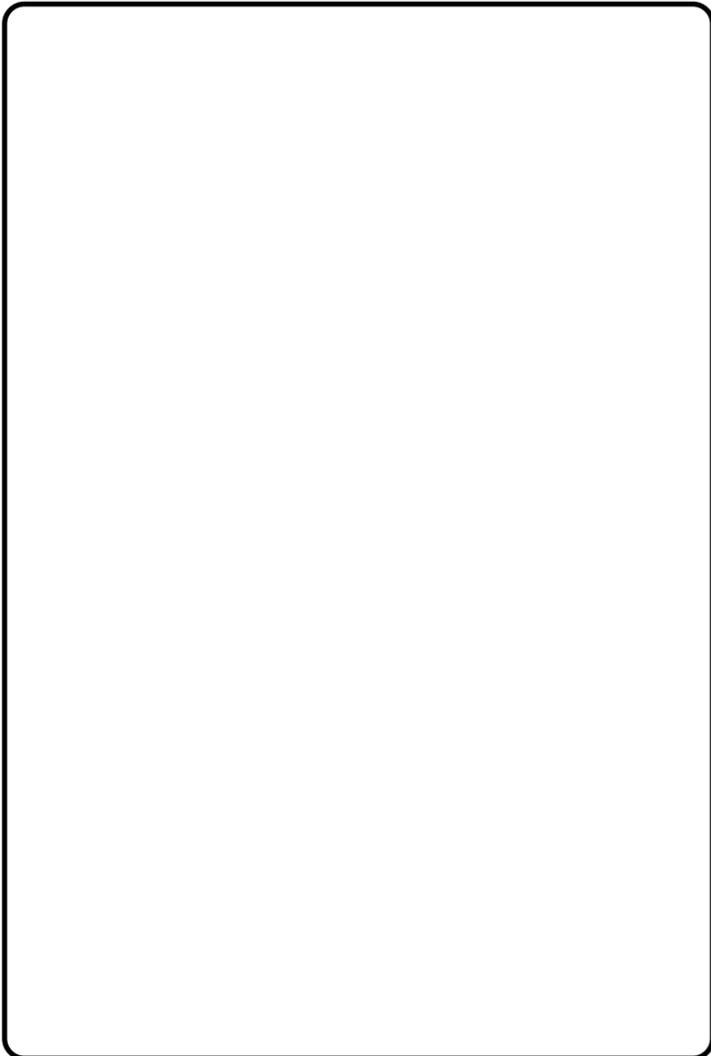




young archer



Watching Over Heaven's Door

by Diana Cormack
When a new year begins, people look forward to what it might bring to them. We wish each other a Happy New Year and hope for health, happiness and perhaps a win on the lottery!

At the same time, we also look back at the old year, remembering what has happened in those twelve months, maybe wondering if we should have acted differently. So we are looking backwards and forwards at the same time.

The Romans had a god who could do that. It was easy for him though because he had two faces, one in front and one behind.

Two-faced

He could look back into the past and see everything that had happened and forward into the future and see everything that was going to happen. He watched over the gate of heaven and was the god of entrances and exits. His temple had twelve windows and four doors - a window for every month and a door for each of the seasons.

During the first month of the year, the Romans made offerings of new meals and new wines to him. They also prayed to him to forgive their wrong doings in the old year and to make them happy in the new year. His name was Janus and that is where the name January comes from. Janitor, the name for the person whose job involves door keeping, also comes from his name. In times of war, the doors to his temple in Rome were thrown open and they were closed in times of peace.

Can you think why this was done?

New Year Wordsearch

Can you find the twelve months of the year?

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

clever clogs corner

Sounds like fun

"New" and "knew" sound the same but have different meanings and spellings. How many pairs of these sorts of words (homonyms) can you find in the following passage?

"I knew you couldn't keep to your New Year's resolution," I said to my dad. I felt sore as I saw him puffing at a cigarette. He blew a puff of blue smoke into the air.

"You're my son and heir," he replied, "I tell you what to do, not the other way round."

I looked him straight in the eye and said, "I read in the paper that you can harm people around you not just yourself. It's called passive smoking. I can't tie a knot in my throat and stop breathing."

Dad went red, coughed and then spluttered out, "Children should be seen and not heard!"

"I'm not going to made a scene Dad," I replied calmly, "But I thought you had more guts and will power."

As I watched him he carefully stubbed the cigarette out in the ash tray.

"I've been very weak son,"

he murmured. "I'm sorry. Let me try again so that this time next week I can honestly say that I haven't smoked for seven days."

Then he gave me a huge smile and I felt as if the sun was coming out again.

Sounds like door

Each word fitting the clue has the sound "door" in it. Can you solve the clues?

Answers below.

1. A crow-like bird which steals shiny things.
2. A small, sleepy rodent.
3. A passageway between rooms.
4. A bullfighter.
5. To love someone very much.
6. A female child.
7. To move about slowly.
8. The back fin of a fish.
9. A room where a lot of people sleep.
10. A country in south America.

Answers to Sounds like door:
 1. jackdaw 2. dormouse
 3. corridor 4. matador
 5. adore 6. daughter
 7. dawdle 8. dorsal
 9. dormitory 10. Ecuador

Prayer for Peace

In the centre of Berlin, Germany, there is a huge gateway called The Brandenburg Gate which was designed as a gate of peace about two hundred years ago.

After World War Two, when the city was divided, particularly by the Berlin wall, this gate became even more significant as it symbolised a divided city and a divided world. Through the fall of the wall, it became once again a symbol for a united peaceful future in Germany and in Europe.

In 1994, a special room was opened in the Brandenburg Gate. It is a place where anyone can go and spend some time in complete silence praying or thinking about the state of the world, trying to gain strength for their daily lives or feeling gratitude for the achievements of recent years.

It was modelled on a similar room in the United Nations Building in New York.

The prayer of the United Nations is one which carries a hopeful plea for the future of the world. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone in the world read it and tried to carry out its wishes? What a Happy New Year we could all look forward to then!

The Prayer of the United Nations

Oh Lord,
 our planet Earth
 is only a small star in space.
 It is our duty
 to transform it into a planet
 whose creatures are no longer
 tormented
 by war, hunger and fear,
 no longer senselessly divided
 by race, colour and ideology.
 Give us courage and strength
 to begin the task today
 so that our children and our
 children's children
 shall one day carry
 the name of
 "MAN"
 with pride.

Adverse Adverts

by Diana Cormack

East Finchley children are not as influenced by TV as we are led to believe.

A group of 9-11 year olds recently gave their opinions about the adverts which they see. Interestingly, they were under no illusions about these commercials and they realised that what was being said about the product was not always the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The favourites were:-

1. For W.H.Smith, with all the family being played by Nicholas Lyndhurst. (They thought it was very funny.)

2. Pizza Hut's advert using footballers who have missed crucial penalties (although some had not realised the significance of them calling "Miss! Miss! Miss!").

3. IKEA's "Chuck out the Chintz" (because they liked to sing along with the song).

The least-liked were:-

1. The Strike breakfast cereal advert (because they thought the goalkeeper was stupid).

2. The Pizza Hut advert featuring Damon Hill (because they didn't like him, though that may have changed since he became BBC TV's Sports Personality of the Year!).

This tied with Sindy and IKEA again (both regarded as stupid).

Then equally disliked were Pantene and Ferrero Rocher (they were considered to be boring).

They judged them quite harshly and gave me hope that at least some of the consumers of the future know that these adverts need to be taken with a pinch of salt!

New Year Resolutions

by Alex Davey, aged 10 and a half, Brownswell Road

The World - to stop diseases.

Our Country - for England to win the World Cup. East Finchley - for East Finchley to have more play areas.

Myself - to stop eating too much chocolate.

My family - for my Dad to stop smoking, but that would be a miracle.

Answers to Sounds like fun
 new and knew
 saw and sore
 blew and blue
 air and heir
 eye and I
 red and read
 not and knot
 seen and scene
 weak and week
 uns and nos

