

Metamorphosis 913

By Agrippa

Grid setup: The grid is divided into **three** sections that are independent of each other. Each section has a thematic letter. The thematic letter in a section is graphically visible in that section. The overall grid has **six** thematic words that are unrelated to the thematic letters.

Rules applied to clues:

1) 54A has been left un-clued. Follow the “Post solve instructions” (see below) to obtain the word definition and the word.

2) For every other clue in the grid,

a) The definition part of the clue applies to the clued word in the grid

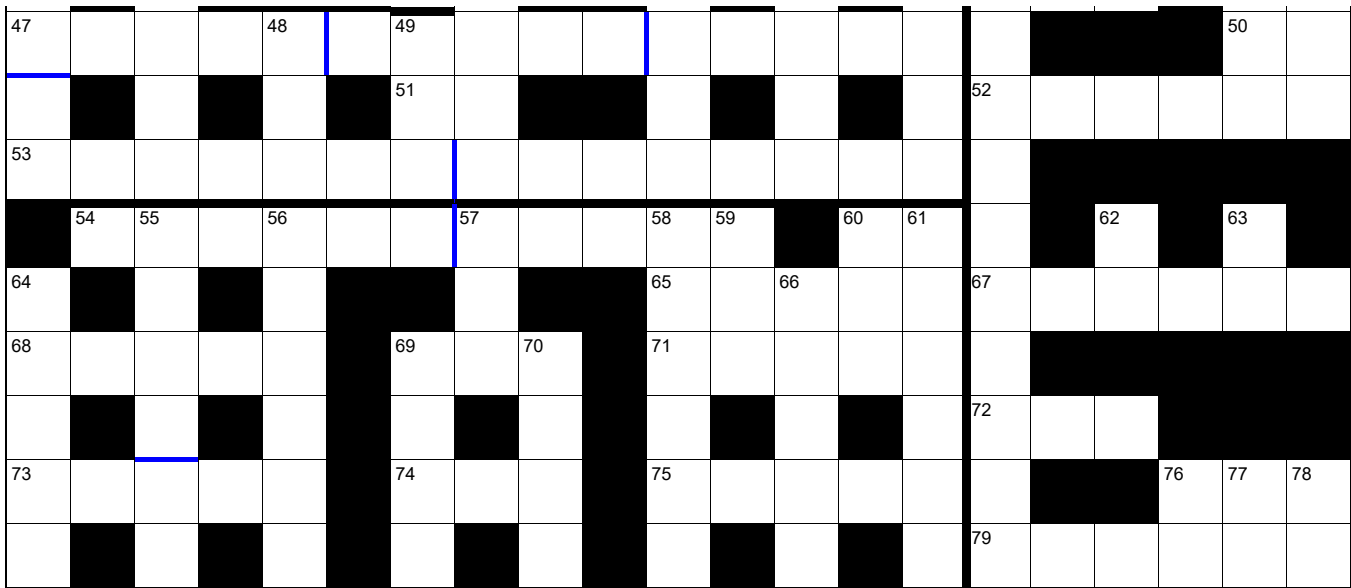
b) The word play part of the clue applies to the clued word that has undergone a metamorphosis based on the thematic letter of the section in which the word is present. The nature of the metamorphosis is as follows:

- If the word is a thematic word, there is no metamorphosis
- If the word has the thematic letter in it, **all** instances of the thematic letter are removed, and the word play applies to the resulting word (group of letters)
- If the word does not have the thematic letter in it, the thematic letter is added at any possible location in the word, and the word play applies to the resulting word (group of letters).

Post solve instructions:

There are **twelve** words/abbreviations (11 two-letter words, 1 three-letter word) in the grid, which are un-clued. These words show up after the grid is solved because of the nature of grid layout. Identify those words, take the letters from them and make an anagram to yield the <word + word definition> for 54A.

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What is the word definition for 54A?

What are the six thematic words?

What is the theme of the thematic words?

What are the three thematic letters?

What do the thematic letters represent?

How are the thematic letters related to the puzzle title?

List Your Top 3 Clues - SOLUTION WORDS ONLY

Rank: Overall quality of the Puzzle from 10 (Highest) to 1 (Lowest)

Across

- 1 Surprisingly, a bifrost web-lore, lacking case of 39, primarily is not an explanation for the origin of tongues (5,2,5)
- 8 Bird, a mythical bird, born tiny without wings (5)
- 12 Recurrent within us is a madness to collect (5)
- 13 Children's writer's finale (3)
- 14 Guard's secret date's taken off, inmate's missing (5)
- 17 That man's next in line? Not right (?)

- 17 How much heat in the... (2)
- 18 Woman with bow to wage a fight (3)
- 20 First, letters of legal eviction, then they nagged guests for rental (7)
- 22 Remarks about missing EPA funds ultimately became more cloudy (7)
- 23 Charge child skipping school (3)
- 24 Projecting edge of step son's reverse swing, missing heads of stumps within inches (6)
- 25 They periodically shed their outer covering, partners take nudes at bottom, not top of 1 (6)
- 26 Measure of radioactivity from a strip of ox hide (3)
- 29 In a reserved manner, filially eliminated heads of family, line and lineage (5)
- 31 Say, Ezra's silver screen adaptation is devoid of lies (9)
- 33 Broadcasts about primarily Cupid's bows (4)
- 37 Colour extracted from body cells (3)
- 38 Appeal of pure consciousness in Hinduism (2)
- 39 Agents cover block producing 25, say (8)
- 41 Pool lads spurted out of place ignoring 64 (6)
- 44 Masses before Christ after short time (3)
- 47 They protect every body from invasion, maybe even some liberal, wealthy locals (primarily Democrats) without air? Yea, all (5,5,5)
- 52 Basically nothing, netted zero (6)
- 53 Author woke up to extremely radical nightmares oddly about an impossible object (7,8)
- 54 <Not clued. See instructions> (6,5)
- 65 Influential person hiding in Samoa? Verified (5)
- 67 Send back Conservative male in Red (6)
- 68 Cryptic gate colour? (5)
- 69 Heartless, foolish agent (3)
- 71 Soft grape variety lacking texture at the front (5)
- 72 Piece by piece turned back a social gathering (3)
- 73 Autocrats probably act out to drive away (5)
- 74 Full or half full (3)
- 75 Musically sweet act primarily led by virtuoso (5)
- 76 Youth followed date to beat a drum (3)
- 79 Phase out, perhaps some new carbon memory chips (6)

Down

- 1 Nation's heart and soul crushed without Euros (8)
- 2 Literary shades of anger at Society (7)
- 3 Sample of Rubina's surreal review of a nation (7)
- 4 Charge provided by electronic equipment starter (3)
- 5 Join shoe company, not a school (3)
- 6 English leader changed, dismissed at the end, played away from center (8)
- 7 Mainly two knights encapsulate crux of Chess Conjectures (9)
- 8 Principal physicist iteratively recreated vacuous 41-theory of physics (10)
- 9 In the name of every fourth non-celebrity... (2)
- 10 Rising against rejection (2)

- 11 Separate bankers in the middle, after all, frequently funnel central funds (6)
- 16 Article from aliens regularly ignored (2)
- 18 White with a hint of colour, no? (3)
- 19 Fragment of main current capsized routine trip (3)
- 21 Regular grid of a board game (2)
- 22 Mother's purpose, on reflection (2)
- 26 Draw small electronic screwdriver's end back to turn computer device off and on (5)
- 28 Oh! wise man probably has no pen (3)
- 30 Besides Yttrium, Cerium and Tungsten at the top (3)
- 32 Partly captures working title (7)
- 34 Embarrassed allowing delay leading to warning signal (3,4)
- 35 Devise rapid exchange capturing Chinese dialect (4,2)
- 36 Possibly true - at heart, half of California supports... (6)
- 37 Maybe most are clever by dint, oddly not very obvious (12)
- 40 Play is bad - switching hands (5)
- 42 Setback: essential to motivate us in every result (5)
- 45 Grey: Colour of money (3)
- 46 Cake party (3)
- 48 Self that is on journey (3)
- 49 The French Story (3)
- 55 Working with a drink is entertaining, workers' leader admits (4,2)
- 56 Without mat, meditate? Crazy to imagine (6)
- 57 Drain pipes emptied and mounted (3)
- 58 Stop an assistant welcoming politician with Egyptian leader (6)
- 60 College administrator's retreat (3)
- 61 Worn away idol's headless and abandoned (6)
- 62 Peaceful forgetting tribulation essentially before noon (2)
- 63 ...because not taking sides is cool (2)
- 64 De Niro and DiCaprio say, "I'd prove 8. Oddly, it is vastly overrated. RIP" (5)
- 66 Half of marauders leap over a horse (5)
- 69 Fix an agent (4)
- 70 Indeed, record cry (4)