

# Puzzle title: The Creepy Orphanage

Location: Central Park flagpole field.

**Set-up:** Puzzle is given to teams in an envelope at check-in time with a request to not open until given the start code.

## CK Hint/Partial Data [squares = minutes, hexes = points]:

**0 pts** ORIENT,BILLYCLUB  
Yes, those words are in the first row of blanks. Did you find them in the first grid?

**10** Place a different hexomino on each of the 34 grids so that both the covered and the uncovered letters say something in natural reading (left-to-right, top-to-bottom) order. You may write those on the last sheet.

**15** The uncovered letters describe a (sometimes imaginative) interpretation of the corresponding hexomino's shape. When you have filled out all the spaces in the left column, you may move your hint clock forward by entering the first letter of each such space.

**30** Each space in the left column should have a six-letter word; you will not need the information in the right column for the rest of this puzzle.

**37** Notice that the last word in each "step" is always "PERIOD". You may now ask a staffer to confirm or help with any hexomino placements.

**41** Read the left column as English instructions for manipulating the one unused hexomino to get the final answer, with punctuation spelled out as words.

**45** "NOGGIN TOPPER" is a hat; you need to identify what type of hat. It shares its name with a player of a game involving gutters and strikes.

**49** The type of hat is a BOWLER, so "BOWLER" is the topper letter sextet (that is, a six-letter word describing a topper).

**54** Remove a suffix from BOWLER to make a letter tetrad (four-letter word) that describes a vessel. That tetrad is your answer.

**55 pts** BOWL  
(correct answer)

**10 pts** DELETE,DESIGN,EQUALS,...  
Yes, that's one of the words to write in the first column of the last sheet.

**10 pts** HYPHEN,PERIOD,NOGGIN,TOPPER,SEXTET,TETRAD  
Yes, that's one of the words to write in the first column of the last sheet. It also...

**10 pts** NOGGIN TOPPER  
Some might call a "NOGGIN TOPPER" a "hat".

**15 pts** BOMBER, BROADSWORD, ...  
Why yes, that hexomino does look a bit like one of those! You can write that in the right column of the last sheet.

**30 pts** ORIENT UNUSED FIGURE MAKING NOGGIN (+TOPPER) (+PERIOD)  
Looks like you're making a message. Keep going! You may move your hint clock forward by entering the first letter of each space in the left column.

**47 pts** OUFMNTPTDEGHSSPIFMVPTLSSMVLTPSTP  
Good job on completing the left column. Now, what is it trying to tell you?

**50 pts** BOAT, DINGHY  
That's not the type of vessel we're looking for. Remember, it has to relate to NOGGIN TOPPER.

**50 pts** TOPHAT  
Creative, but the type of "NOGGIN TOPPER" we're looking for is a single six-letter word.

**52 pts** BOWLER HAT  
Just call it a BOWLER; you don't need to add "HAT".

**52 pts** BOWLER  
Why yes, that hexomino does look like a BOWLER hat -- when oriented that way.

**Solution walk-through:** Place one hexomino per letter grid in a manner such that the uncovered letters are a word or phrase that visually describes the hexomino. Grids are numbered, and they're in alphabetical order of the visual description. The covered letters also form six-letter words, one per grid, and these words read in the given order spell the penultimate message. The final sheet contains 34 numbered blanks, with extra space after each sentence (sentences also end in the six-letter word "PERIOD").

|                   |        |                  |        |
|-------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| 1. BILLYCLUB      | orient | 17. LAMBDA       | invert |
| 2. BOMBER         | unused | 18. LIGHTNING    | figure |
| 3. BROADSWORD     | figure | 19. MALLET       | making |
| 4. CACTUS         | making | 20. MUSKET       | vessel |
| 5. CANDYCANE      | noggin | 21. NESSIE       | period |
| 6. CAPITALGAMMA   | topper |                  |        |
| 7. COLORADO       | period | 22. PENCIL       | delete |
|                   |        | 23. PISTOL       | topper |
| 8. DINERSTOOL     | topper | 24. PRAYINGMAN   | letter |
| 9. ESCALATOR      | design | 25. RABBIT       | sextet |
| 10. FLAG          | equals | 26. SICKLE       | suffix |
| 11. FLINTLOCK     | gutter | 27. SOCCERGOAL   | making |
| 12. FLOSSPICK     | hyphen | 28. SPIRALGALAXY | vessel |
| 13. GASCAN        | hating | 29. SUBMARINE    | letter |
| 14. GOALPOSTS     | strike | 30. THUMBSDOWN   | tetrad |
| 15. GOLFCLUB      | scorer | 31. THUMB TACK   | period |
| 16. INTEGRAL SIGN | period |                  |        |
|                   |        | 32. TOILET       | submit |
|                   |        | 33. TWOHEARTS    | tetrad |
|                   |        | 34. VELOCIRAPTOR | period |

Following the instructions:

1. "Orient unused figure making noggin topper.": 

2. "Topper design equals gutter-hating strike scorer.": this labels the hat as specifically a BOWLER.

3. "Invert figure making vessel.": 

4. "Delete topper letter sextet suffix making vessel letter tetrad.": The end of BOWLER can be removed to get a 4-letter name for the vessel: BOWL.

5. "Submit tetrad.": submit the answer **BOWL**.