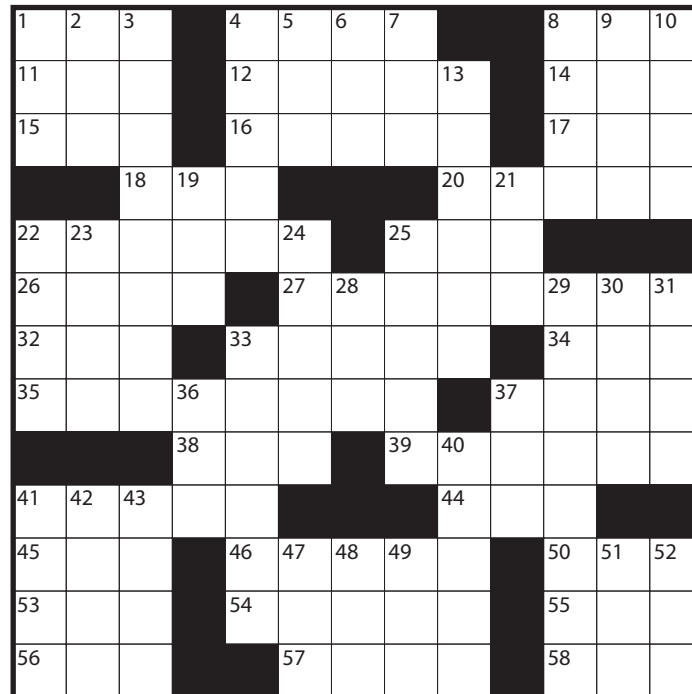


THE FOX AND THE GRAPES

A hungry fox once spied a bunch of dark, glossy grapes, loaded with sweet juice, clustered together high on the vine. "Those succulent grapes will make a fine dinner," he decided, and he jumped up to snatch them. Alas, the grapes were just out of his reach. He mustered all his strength and leapt again, but the grapes were still too far...too far! Leap after leap met with disappointment, and eventually the fox gave up. "Well," he sniffed in contempt. "It looks to me like those grapes have turned bad anyway. Doubtless they're much too acidic for my refined palate." Muttering a caustic string of expletives, he stalked off to do a crossword puzzle.

MORAL: A fox's stomach, always keen, is equaled only by his spleen.



ACROSS

- 1 Inner ear component
- 4 "The uncertain glory of an ____ day..." *Shakespeare*
- 8 Lithographer James Merritt
- 11 Leatherworking tool
- 12 Literate one
- 14 The Emerald Isle
- 15 Pasture
- 16 Acquiesce
- 17 A wee drink
- 18 Bruin's home?
- 20 Instrument from Cremona
- 22 Nettlesome
- 25 Digging
- 26 Three dimensional, perhaps
- 27 Comics cry: "Avengers ____!"
- 32 Plenty for Omar?
- 33 Some salad veggies
- 34 Hysterical one
- 35 Dimensions of some lumber
- 37 One for hydrogen, e.g.
- 38 Naturalness
- 39 Prattle

- 41 *Borstal Boy's* Brendan
- 44 Actress Judith
- 45 A certain 43 Down
- 46 Habitué
- 50 Good for Sarkozy?
- 53 Scraped up
- 54 Quantity of jigsaw pieces
- 55 Ethereal
- 56 Lowly vassal
- 57 Headman
- 58 It separates Earth and Hades

DOWN

- 1 Young whale or rhinoceros
- 2 See red?
- 3 Flight recorder
- 4 Southern pie element
- 5 Bolt
- 6 The 13th or 15th, usually
- 7 Conducted
- 8 Spreading rapidly
- 9 Amorous poet's inspiration
- 10 A big rig
- 13 Institutes

- 19 Full deck at Caesar's Palace, perhaps?
- 21 Tattoo honoree
- 22 Murders
- 23 Altercation
- 24 Measure of magnetism
- 25 Not at all hot
- 28 Execute a *geländesprung*, e.g.
- 29 Incrementally
- 30 Solitary
- 31 Awful stench
- 33 Christie's "sparkling" murder weapon
- 36 Wall Street pessimist
- 37 The third man, maybe?
- 40 Thought and Memory, for Odin
- 41 *Peter and the Wolf's* duck, et al
- 42 Ms. Sommer, born Schletz
- 43 See 45 Across
- 47 High-hat
- 48 Drink served with *mezedes*
- 49 Legal matter
- 51 Whig's opponent
- 52 Dark chalcedony variety