

Heartache On An Oxeye

As you walk into a clearing in the forest, you spy a seated young woman clutching a handful of daisies. As you approach, you hear her muttering, and muffling the occasional sob, and you see her picking some petals off of one the daisies while skipping some of the others. There are rhomboid-shaped flower petals strewn all over the place.

When you reach her, you kneel and timidly wave to get her attention as you smile apologetically. "What's the matter?" you ask.

"My heart aches terribly for my true love, and yet I'll never meet him," she manages to eke out between the sniffles.

"Who is he?"

"That's just it. I don't know who he is. These flowers were supposed to tell me." She hands you her flowers and you study them intently, noting that the petals have letters on them, and that all the flowers have the same letters on them in the same arrangement. All at once, you realize what she must have been doing. Nevertheless, you decide to confirm your suspicions.

"Let me see if I understand what you're doing. Are you picking off the petals in order to find out his identity?"

"Y-y-yes."

"Starting from the 1, going clockwise around the outer petals and then spiralling inwards?" She nods.

"Continuing the process when you reach the end of the spiral, until you have only one petal left?" She nods again.

"And you're using the standard 'he does, he doesn't' pattern?"

"Th-that's right." She holds up a handful of stems, each with a single petal bearing the letter S left on it.

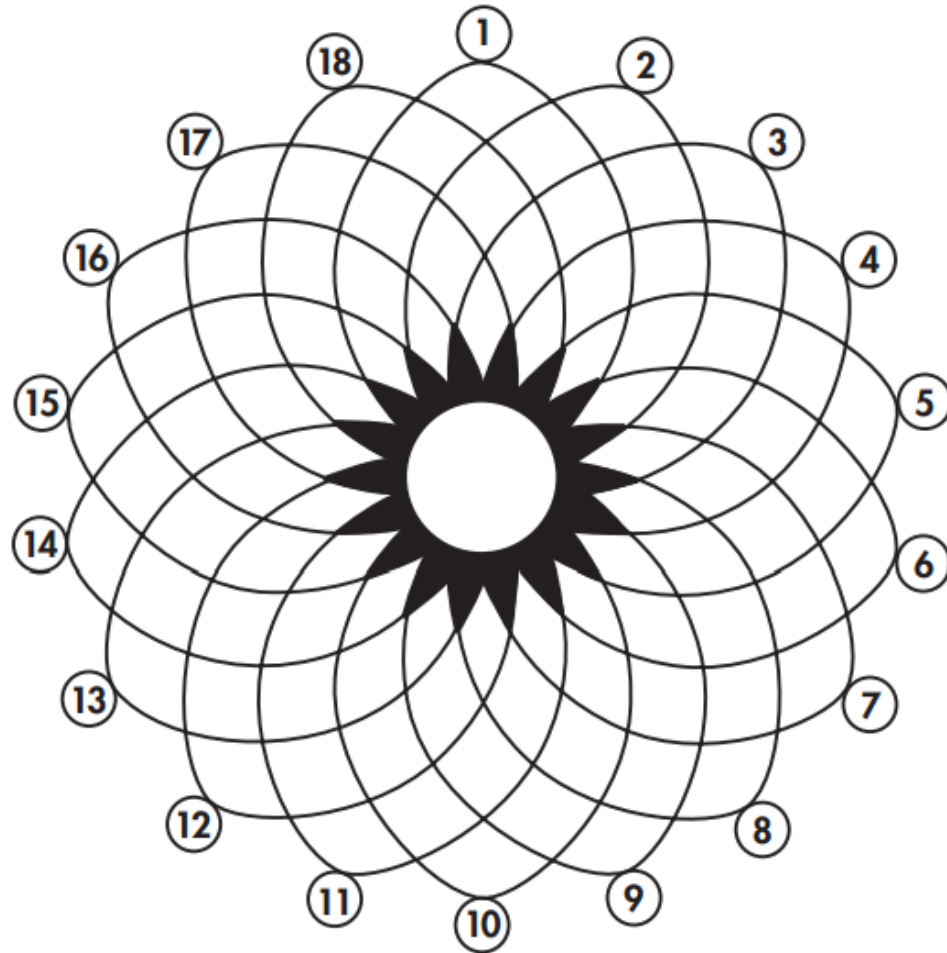
"Ah." You study her remaining half-dozen daisies and ponder her situation for a little while. Then you get out your notepad and scrawl on it. "Try these patterns instead, once each. They'll give you a name – one that looks like someone sneezed into a pile of Scrabble tiles, I admit, but a name nevertheless."

Unexpectedly, she springs up and gives you a big hug. "Thank you so, so much!" Then she sits down, settles in, and starts picking petals off one by one.

The patterns you provided to her are:

- He does, He does, He does, He doesn't, He doesn't, He does, He does
- He does, He does, He does, He doesn't, He does, He doesn't, He doesn't, He does
- He does, He does, He doesn't, He doesn't, He doesn't, He doesn't
- He does, He doesn't, He does, He does, He does, He does, He doesn't
- He does, He doesn't, He does, He doesn't, He does, He does, He does
- He does, He doesn't, He does, He does, He doesn't, He does, He doesn't, He does, He doesn't

This petal puzzle crossword is also a crushword, with 1, 2, or 3 letters in each grid space.
 Enumerations indicate the length of the answer only, and not the lengths of words in multi-word answers.



Clockwise

1. What a picker of petals might say (9)
2. Horribly dastardly (8)
3. Avoids the tag, perhaps (8)
4. Poet appointed to their position (8)
5. Sporophytes that produce fiddleheads (5)
6. Frankenstein's creator (7)
7. Extremely reckless (8)
8. Build up (6)
9. Tour company whose local tours include tours in amphibious vehicles (8)
10. First Dog the AKC knows as Amigo's New Hope (7)
11. Prepared for a spacewalk, say (8)
12. Hero also known as Arthur Curry (7)
13. They develop as part of the healing process (5)
14. Made one's choice (8)
15. Part of a rapper's bling, perhaps (5)
16. Certain garnishes, essentially (6)
17. Like an inferior substitute (6)
18. Means for a municipality to collect a levy (7)

Counterclockwise

1. Superstitious decoration, as on an Amish barn (7)
2. Jazz's Reese and Mason's secretary Street (6)
3. Plum brandy (9)
4. Lotharios (9)
5. Beethoven composition known by its dedication (8)
6. "Good grief!" (6)
7. Protein that's a part of hair or hooves (7)
8. Creator of a "bear of very little brain" (7)
9. Black-plumed icterid birds (8)
10. Really crushing on, perhaps (8)
11. Song title shared by singles released by Akon and Fantasia (6)
12. French region whose duchess was a queen consort of both France and England (9)
13. Unrepentant response to an accusation (5)
14. Latin pop Grammy winner Jon (6)
15. Zip your lips, so to speak (6)
16. Ancient citizen whose queen visited Solomon (6)
17. Solar year/lunar year differentials (6)
18. Did not hasten (7)