Mind's Eye

by Gateman

Every clue must have a letter removed to enable solving. In clue order, these letters give a quote and its author, with a thematic individual removed.

Key features of an item owned by the thematic individual are located in the filled grid, occupying fourteen squares and appropriately positioned relative to another thematic word.

Solvers must play the part of the thematic individual by using this item, leaving eleven squares empty and replacing the contents of twelve others. A resulting four-letter word must be highlighted in the completed grid, which contains all real words.

1	2	3	4		5		6	7	8	9		10	11
12								13					
	14							15			16		
17	18			19		20							
21			22		23			24	25				26
				27				28	29				
30							31						
	32							33					
34					35								

Across

- 1 Terror seizes seaman knocking back poison (8)
- 9 Pilot in training abandons Apache around eastern Iraq, leading to the usual inquiries (4)
- 12 Perhaps helped a toddler eat food and spent less time reaving (8, hyph.)
- 13 Queen interrupts busy tour before conclusion of *Oliver Twist* (6)
- 14 Township loudspeaker leaks a huge BOGO deal (6)
- 15 Repair piano face, seeing defect (6)
- 17 Triumph opens short hymn (5)
- 20 Sport celebrity-turned-plumber (7)
- 21 Sturdy vessel unloads more pitch (3)
- 22 Spied hedges that hurt tree (5)
- 24 Host planet becomes home (6)
- 27 Sent a message to whole western half of Eden (5)
- 29 Fiery material which *Dracula* introduced to vampire stories (4)
- 30 Went to school topless (4)
- 31 Wearily exhale and collapse while glistening, getting a scornful look (7, hyph.)
- 32 Held feast in back room that's comfortable and chill (6)
- 33 Grew like ivy, covering rear of shed like many leaves (6)
- 34 Hot soup and club sandwich somebody once coupled (4)
- 35 Speed-readers read new *Guardian*, taking one second (9, 2 words)

Down

- Head off spectators that ruin Veep's canned reply (4)
- 2 Likely to pant after cycling (3)
- 3 Upon reflection, one of us leaves to remove tat (6)
- 4 Fiddle soloe [sic] in Australia (4)
- 5 Dour group of media finishes regressing some (4, 2 words)
- 6 Bell that criminal designs is under tension (8)
- 7 Man heard inflection (5)
- 8 Coin term in *Science* for apex of volcano (4)
- 9 Out-of-form band (4)
- 10 Squint as sands hem in villa (6)
- 11 Close up, being in the blues (4)
- 16 Nouveau riche with Peruvian ashtray stubbing out butt of bidi (7)
- 18 Use a parasol, having left shawl (6)
- 19 Skulking in back of throng beneath a mass of hair (6)
- 20 Deity holding feather over entrance to avian temple (6)
- 21 Spies begin moving south (5)
- 22 Mongrel calf initially prices at ninety-nine yen (5)
- 23 Release bears which essentially go back and forth (5)
- 25 The Cuban picked up Florida senior (5)
- 26 Pays attention to those in charge making a face of revulsion (5)
- 28 Every card is flipped before a queen (4)