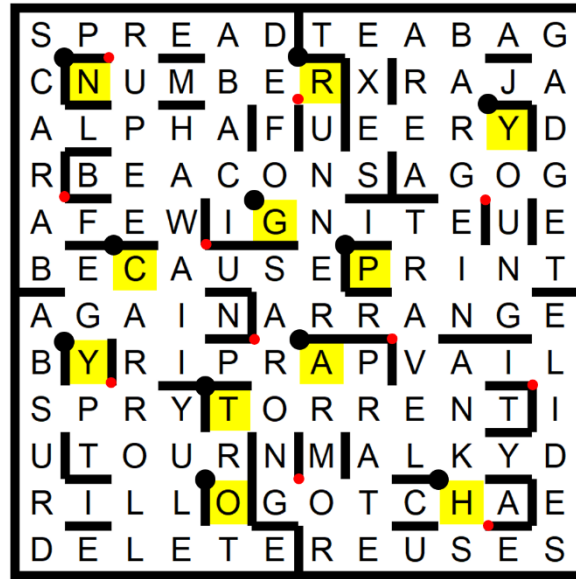


## Vanishing Act Solution



Small dots are colored red in the above diagram for visibility.

Letters in marked squares spell NYCTOGRAPHY, a substitution cypher invented by Lewis CARROLL in which each letter of the alphabet is represented by lines and small/large dots. Interpreting thick bars in the final grid as lines in a nycographic character, the marked cells spell CHESHIRE CAT.

CHESHIRE    CAT  
E P I T O R R E N T I    E . 7

In *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, the Cheshire Cat gradually vanishes over time, until only its GRIN is left. The below diagram shows the intended final form of the grid.



<b>Answer</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
SPREAD	PRE in SAD
TEABAG	EAT* + GAB<
[N]UMBER	double def.
RAJA	AJAR<
ALPHA	HA after ALP
EERY	“EYRIE”
BEACONS	BE A CON S
AGOG	AGO G
A FEW	AF(tern)EW
I[G]NITE	TIED IN* – D
BE[C]AUSE	BEAUS GET – (G T)
[P]RINT	R IN T
AGAIN	(NIAGARA – RA)<
ARRANGE	RANG in ARE
RIPRAP	(PARR around PI)<
VAIL	“VALE”
SPRY	SPIRY – I
[T]ORRENT	R TEN* after OR
TOUR	“TORE”
ALKYD	(ch)ALKY D(rink)
RILL	R I LL
GOTC[H]A	[o]CTAGO[n]*
DELETE	LET in DEE
REUSES	E in RUSES
SCARAB	(BARACK S – K)<
RUPEE	E in PURE*
ABACI	(I CAB A)<
DEFOG	GOLFED< – L
EXES	X in SEE<
AREA	(squ)ARE A(bsolutely)
BARGE IN	BARGAIN where A becomes E
GADGET	GAD GET
[R]UNNER	[n]UNNER[y]
HAWAII	HAWAII’s postal abbr. is “HI”
[Y]OUNG	O GNU<
TRAVEL	T RAVEL
EG[Y]PT	P in GET*
CARROLL	<i>No clue</i>
SARONG	SARGE – E around ON
ABSURD	(EARBUDS – E)*
ELIDES	EL ID EST – T
[A]RMOR	(b)R(o)O(d)M(a)R(e)<
PRATE	R in PÂTE
ANKHS	(ASK N H)*
YULE	(YULAN – AN) E
TR[O]T	TRT is a palindrome