

Information about how to participate

- 1. What is the puzzle challenge?** The puzzle is a cryptogram of a sentence from a popular Alaska book.
- 2. What is a cryptogram?** A cryptogram is a letter-substitution code. Each letter in the quotation is replaced by another letter of the alphabet. For instance, if you determine that the letter x is replacing the letter e, then every x in the puzzle will be an e.
- 3. How do I participate?** The cryptogram is in five pieces. You must find all five pieces, put them in order, and solve the puzzle to reveal the quote. See below for more details.
- 4. Where are the pieces?** Find them on the websites of the five Alaska bookstores linked below:

Fireside Books: <https://www.goodbooksbadcoffee.com/event/2025-10-08/fireside-book-club-october-2025>

Hearthside Books: <https://hearthsidebooks.com/blog/beary-good-time>

Homer Books: <https://www.homerbookstore.com/>

Solstice Bookshop: <https://solsticebookshop.com/>

Writer's Block Bookstore and Cafe: <https://writersblockak.com/events/>

Note: The bookstores are in alphabetical order. The puzzles pieces do not go together in the order given below; that is, the first bookstore may or may not have the first piece of the cryptogram.

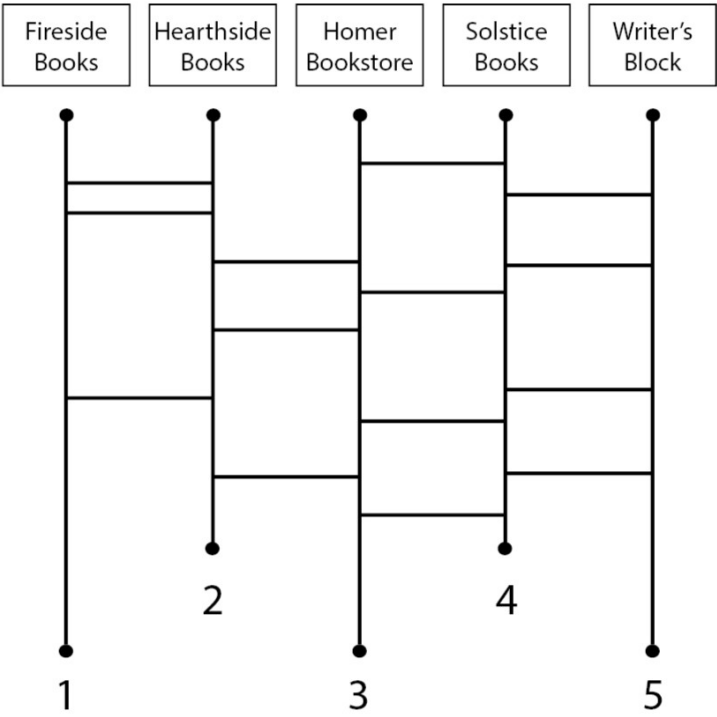
Tips for Solving Cryptograms

- Start with short words, those with one or two letters.
- Consider common three-letter words, like THE and AND.
- Look for repeated words and letters, like TT, SS, LL, and NN.
- Look at letter frequency. E, A, T, and S are frequently used in English words.
- Look for common digraphs (letter pairs), like TH, SH, or AN.
- Notice when a word begins and ends with the same letter.
- Go ahead and guess. Apply the letters you suspect are correct across the puzzle and see what is revealed.
- Go with your gut, and don't give up!

Sorting Help

Want help putting the five puzzle pieces in order? Follow the lines beneath each bookstore's name downward. Every time you hit a horizontal line, take it until you hit another vertical line. If you follow the lines correctly, you'll discover the order of the puzzle pieces, from 1 – 5.

Bonus Play. Use the same code to decipher the title and author of the book containing this quote:



avmwqqvd: lxfpayhi, js qvqs b. ywgihsqwep