

Snake Eyes by Hale

A snake has been caught in a net!
 Is she angry about it? You bet.
 She loudly says "hi",
 Followed instantly by
 "PIP PIP", which means "I am upset!"

.

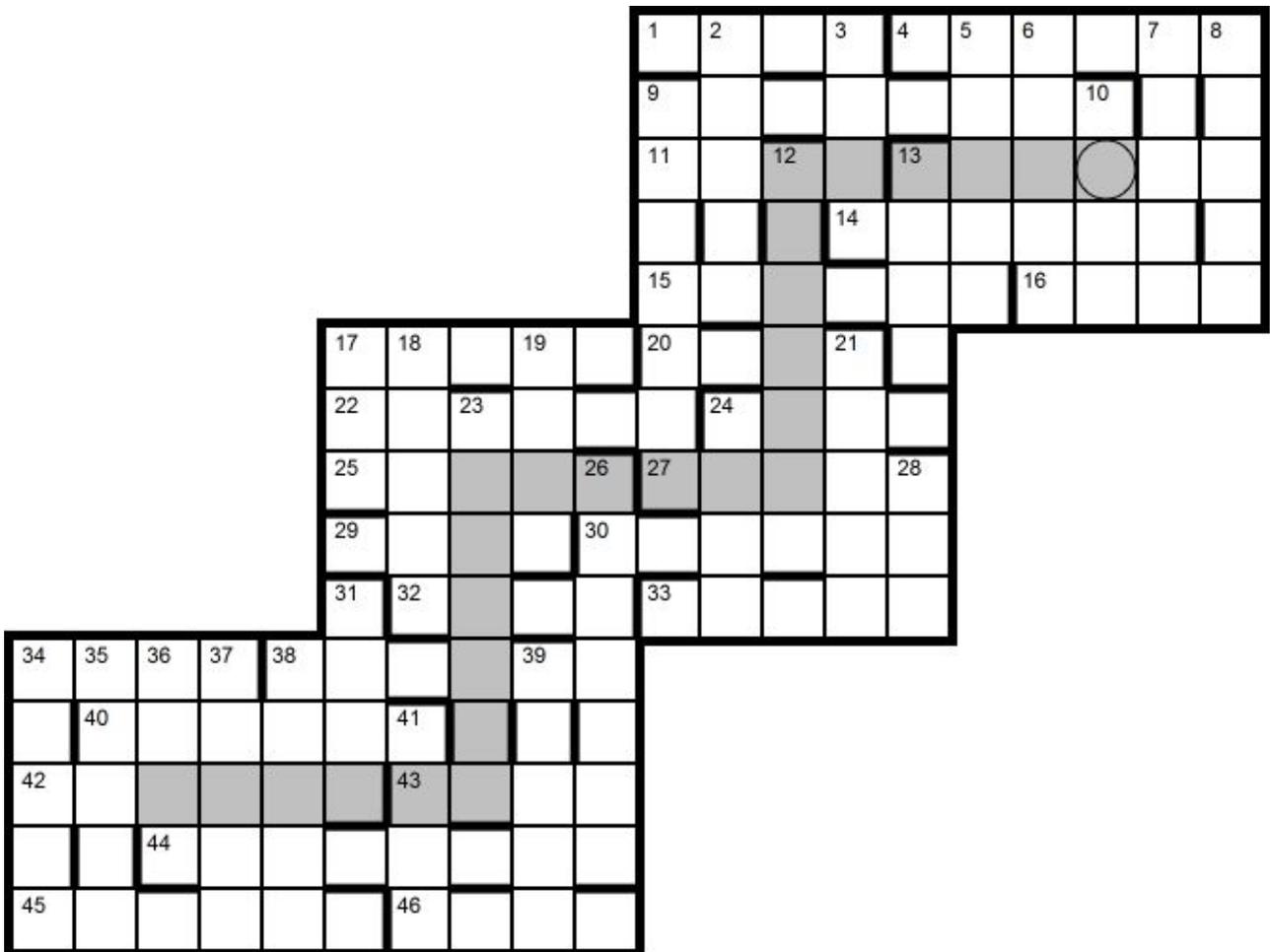
Indeed, our poor, shaded-area snake has been captured in a conveniently numbered, grid-like net.

To reveal the message cued by PIP PIP, circle the appropriate cells (which may be located anywhere in the net, not just on the snake) and take their letters in the order of your choice. One cell—the snake's right eye—has been circled for you.

Using the circled cells as a guide, assign one or two numbers to each entry. Call the first number *N*. In cases where a second number applies, call that number *K*.

Entries that have only *N* are of the same type as our captured snake. For each of these entries, take its first letter, increment it by the alphabetical index of the first letter of its clue, and then increment it further by *N*. (A handy alphabet is located at the bottom of the second page to aid with this step.) Read in clue order, this will tell you what to look for in the miffed, imprisoned snake, traversing it from tail to head, to reveal a fitting name for it.

Entries that have both *N* and *K* are of a different type—they're called *sidewinders*. The *K*th letter of the *N*th word of each sidewinder clue, when taken in clue order, will reveal a recommendation on how the snake can free herself from the net, scare the trap-setter, and escape in style.



Snake Eyes by Hale

Across

1. Hidden in Toscanini's study (4)
4. Graduated, with final stricken from calendar after snow (6)
9. Prevent from reaching home plate, perhaps—one way to indicate worth? (8, 2 wds)
11. Muslim ruler brought back tiny crystals made of ice (4)
13. Korean vodka in authentic container (no orange juice chase) (6)
14. Peculiar trail: a knotted loop of rope (6)
15. Person who gets enjoyment from cruelty roughly insulted out loud (6)
16. Chapter concerning English-Algonquian language (4)
17. In conversation, burns forecasters (5)
20. Xerox center surrounded by stuff—unbordered territory (4)
22. Eagerly consume unlimited wine, heroin, brew (6)
24. Drag softly and hardly? (4)
25. Joins, backtracks, and splits (5)
27. Inventor of Robinson Crusoe's enemy, east of Delaware (5)
29. Detailed mountain bottom (4)
30. "False," you said, interrupting noble's castigation (6)
32. Lunatic Siri's flowering plant (4)
33. Yes, run in after disembowelled scarlet bird (5)
34. Krypton, for one, turned, absorbed nitrogen, and hummed (4)
38. Short series about even integers (6)
40. I want a developed nation on an island (6)
42. Gloomy dwelling in Burundi's malodorous (6)
43. Without company, first two coming back for capital (4)
44. Drive a Mazda, initially, then sample old Saturn vehicle (8)
45. Other woman loses 40% share of Miami Heat (6)
46. Fantastic, neat Sicilian volcano (4)

N K Down

2. Link (third to last) leads to Eastern Asian nation (5)
3. Western Asian nation drops ban—lifted for Christmas (4)
5. Bench romance (5)
6. Yellowish clothing taken off of Maurice (5)
7. Junky teacup, lacking finish and having a sharp point (5)
8. Without leader, Revere surprisingly becomes president (5)
9. Spanish you translated in the beginning is credible (7)
10. Mariner embraces Sweden's first emperor (4)
12. Center of stomach? I'd take "center of torso"! (7)
13. Decline to accept praises, oddly (4)
17. Bro's counterpart found in Mississippi (3)
18. Quinn scratching head and wandering after constant boredom (5)
19. Grabbed tattered tarp (4)
21. Last of oil and egg covered with hair and powder (5)
23. Had rest beaten up for profound hostilities (7)
24. Quarter of performative time is lively (4)
26. Hearing rising sounds: first of salvos interrupting (7)
28. Vacuous eel alongside one thousand moose (3)
31. Carnivorous marine mammal that prefers cold, southeast Alabama (4)
34. Carbonated beverages: so bitter, looking back (5)
35. Fifty aboard Titanic (almost half broken off, overturned and tipping) (5)
36. Versatile as an American agency (4)
37. Freebie—ahem—might fragment, in retrospect (5)
38. Floor-cleaning apparatuses somewhat worthless, and barely sterile to begin with (5)
39. New York and half of London make synthetic material (5)
41. Addled tenor missing last show (4)

N K

WHAT "PIP PIP" CUES IN THE INTRODUCTORY VERSE:

WHAT TO LOOK FOR ALONG THE SNAKE'S BODY, TRAVERSING IT FROM TAIL TO HEAD:

A FITTING NAME FOR THE ENRAGED SERPENT:

OUR RECOMMENDATION TO THE POOR THING:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z