

## Best Laid Plans

The theme of this set of interconnected puzzles is **Mice and Men**. You don't have to know anything about the John Steinbeck novel. You do have to know some television cartoons! If you get stuck, work back and forth between the puzzles.

Answers are on last page.

### A. Are You a Man or a Mouse?

Separate this list into the two boxes:

ANGELINA	CLEVELAND	FRED	HEINZ	MINNIE	PETER	SPEEDY
BARNEY	DALE	GADGET	HOMER	NED	PINKY	STUART
BOB	FIEVEL	HANK	JERRY	PEARL	PIXIE	

MAN

MOUSE



Breadwinner



Squeaky Clean

### B. Father Knows Best

Match the father to the job.

1. Mad Scientist \_\_\_\_\_
2. Safety Inspector \_\_\_\_\_
3. Deli Owner \_\_\_\_\_



Working Stiff

### C. Dynamic Duos

Which mouse completes the pairing?

1. Mickey and \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ and the Brain Cheddar Together
3. Tom and \_\_\_\_\_



### D. Three on a Match

Remove the first **and** last letter from *one* of the three working fathers you wrote in **B**.

Rearrange the remaining letters to name one member of a famous trio.

\_\_\_\_\_

### E. Rhyme and Reason

Which item, given to each mouse that you wrote in **C**, makes the most sense?



### F. What is the Connection?

What do the answers to **D** and **E** have to do with each other?



## Story Time

This is a silly story I wrote back in 2016. Just a little something for Father's Day, in honor of my Dad and his humor.

### Farting Around with Zombies

"Daddy?" Mike licked his fingers before grabbing his big boy spoon. "What's a vegetarian?"

Abner chuckled, "A starving zombie."

"Dad!"

Abner looked at his son's serious face. When did his little monkey change into this studious inquisitor? He stopped laughing and gave his son an answer suitable for a six-year-old.

"Oh. Suzie told us that we would all evolve and stop eating animals." Mike dug into his Froot Loops. "Will we still be able to eat hotdogs?"

Abner rolled his eyes theatrically. "That Suzie just wants everyone to look like a giraffe so she won't stand out. Her big head must put a giant strain on that scrawny neck. I'll tell you what, kiddo. You and me, we're carnivals. We have fun eating meat!"

Mike giggled, much to Abner's relief. The conversation dissipated into a random babble of soccer practice, sour milk and pizza for dinner. Abner had no idea just how much Suzie had infected his son ...

#### *Ten Years Later*

"Dad?" Mike sipped herbal tea, while his father gnawed on a t-bone. "What does carminative mean?"

Abner nearly choked. "It's a fart-inhibitor, son! Has Suzie been in your ear about carnivores, again? What a dork!"

"Hey, hey! That is my girlfriend we're talking about. She is too delicate to say things like you do. She was trying to get me to eat a caper a day for its carminative benefits." Despite his stern tone, Mike smiled at his father.



"A sprinkle a daaaaay...", Abner's off-key sing-song trailed away. He got up, tried to fasten his belt and gave up. As he mounted the stairs to hit the bathroom, he intoned, "Listen, Mike, you like meat, I like meat. Just eat what you want and fart when you have to. We're animals. Women expect no less than

gross behavior from us. Trying to prevent nature from acting is like spinning records backwards - the devil comes out."

Mike shrugged. "I dunno. I will try them. She picked up a dozen bottles from the GNC surplus bin."

"Suit yourself, kiddo. Hey, guess what? In high school, I failed chemistry, but passed gas! How is that even possible?"

Mike burst out laughing. "You're so stupid."



# Answers

A

Mice: ANGELINA, FIEVEL, GADGET, JERRY, MINNIE, PEARL, PINKY, PIXIE, SPEEDY, STUART  
Men : BARNEY, BOB, CLEVELAND, DALE, FRED, HANK, HEINZ, HOMER, NED, PETER

B

1. Heinz (Doofenshmirtz, from *Phineas and Ferb*)
2. Homer (Simpson, from *The Simpsons*)
3. Cleveland (Brown, from *The Cleveland Show*)

C

1. Minnie
2. Pinky
3. Jerry

D

Remove the **H** and **R** from Homer and rearrange the remaining letters to spell **MOE**, a member of *The Three Stooges*.

E

The glasses make the most sense, as that would give you *Three Blind Mice*.

F

According to [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Blind_Mice):

*"Three Blind Mice", beginning in 1939, was a slow but straightforward presentation (dubbed the "sliding strings" version), often breaking into a "jazzy" style before ending. In mid-1942, a faster version was used, featuring accordion.*



By Columbia Pictures/Pillsbury -  
eBayfrontback, Public Domain



Mitchell Allen is a life-long puzzle enthusiast, story-teller and programmer. One day, he decided that it would be cool to mash all three hobbies into one mad creation. You are holding it. If you, too, appreciate cleverly crafted puzzles mixed in with your classic wordplay staples, you'll love the kinds of puzzles and activities Mitchell has planned.

To keep in touch with the world of Mind-bending Variety puzzles, subscribe to the newsletter by scanning the QR code below or entering <https://pencilpaperparacosm.com> into your browser.

