

Solutions

ACROSS

1. Anagram – BENGALI is an anagram of BELGIAN
4. Capsule and Beheading – MIDDLE C (the center key on a piano) is composed of a short riddle (IDDLE) surrounded by emcee (MC)
8. Capsule and reversal – CATTLEMAN (rancher) reverses (melt becomes TLEM) into a settlers game (Settlers of CATAN)
10. Anagram – CANON (a story that adheres to the official “bible” of Star Wars, for example, which is more valid than fan-created fiction) is an anagram (crazed) of a barbarian (CONAN)
11. Charades – MIDRIFF Centered (MID) hot take (RIFF) to waist (MIDRIFF)
14. Anagram – MAIZE (lemon yellow) is an anagram of (bewildered) Hawaiian senator (MAZIE)
15. Letter Bank – NEVER NEVER LAND (Pan’s place) from the seeds (letters) of LAVENDER
18. Charades – ALBERT EINSTEIN (theory of relativity genius) from London hall (ALBERT) and one mug translated to german (EIN STEIN)
21. Charades and the Cryptic alphabet – TASKS (Assigns) is built of T (true) and (ASKS) requests
23. Charades and the Cryptic alphabet – SUNLESS (Cloudy) is built of (S) small and (UNLESS) except
25. Double Definition – TWAIN (Clemens’ pen name) and (TWAIN) old expression for a duo
26. Word Bank – EYE OPENER (a surprise) can be spelled with the letters (ingredients) of RYE PONE
29. Capsule and reversal – COLLECT (gather) a reversed (switched) bass string (CELLO becomes OLLEC) in (CT) Connecticut
30. Letter bank – Smallest (MINIMUM) from the letters in MUNI

DOWN

1. Charades and Beginnings – BECOMING (attractive) is built from the first letters (origin) of center of mass (COM) in existence (BEING)
2. Beheading? Charades? NIT – Minor shortcoming (NIT) is built by removing WIT (witless) from dullard (NITWIT)
3. Charades and the Cryptic alphabet – AWL (tool) is built by removing O (without oxygen) from AWOL (unexplained absence)
4. Capsule – MONASTERIES (abbeys) is built by taking funds (MONIES) and adding (invested with) a flower (ASTER)
5. Anagram – DECIMAL (point) is an anagram of MEDICAL
6. Hidden words LANAI (porch) is included in (inside) AnguillAN Air
7. Double definition – CONNED (swindled and CONN ED (a utility)
9. Hidden words – ELF (pole worker) can be found (baked) in angEL Food
12. Double definition – DEVIL (little imp) is the details occupier (the DEVIL is in the details)
13. Letter bank – FLEET STREET (Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street) is built from the letters of felters
16. Container and the Cryptic alphabet – NIECE (sib’s kid) is built by adding E (empty) to the center of a French town (NICE)
17. Charades – ANGSTROM(a small unit) is built by adding ANGST (teen agitation) to half a chick flick (ROMcom)
19. Letter bank – ESSENCE (The main idea) is built (drawn from) the letters of SCENE
20. Anagram – STATIC (Stationary) is an anagram (messy) of ATTICS
22. Charades and Cryptic alphabet – SNAIL (slowpoke) is built of S and NAIL (a brad is a small nail)
24. Hidden words – UFO (aerial phenomenon) is reversed (flipped) in a doOFUs (3)
27. Double definition – PUN (joke): pun (Round table inventor? Sir Cumference)
28. Beginnings – NIM (a math game) starts with (first letters of) Numbers In Motion

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