

SolTrade Portfolio Summary III

3-1. The answers to the clues and pictures are as follows:

BOTTLENECK/<missing answer>; SEEING/SLING; PLAYS/PLUS; SSTS/BATS; SPHERE/SPRINGE
BEECH/BEEPER; GROUT/PERT; RPMS/CAMS; MONAD/SALAD; LUNAR/LUNG; ALATE/ALASKA; PIGS/KEGS;
THRESH/THREAD; HELLIONS/BILLIONS; DUPE/COUPE; MARK UP/LINK UP; SHOP/SHAH;
CURSORS/CURLERS; MANOS/TAOS; DESTITUTION/DESTINATION

The cryptolist at the end spell the names of 20 fish (AYU, BASS, CARP, COD, EEL, GAR, GROUPER, HEBI, HERRING, MANTA, MARLIN, OPAH, PERCH, PIKE, SALMON, SHAD, SKATE, SOLE, TUNA, TURBOT).

For each slide the letters that are different between the answers form the names of one of these 20 fish (e.g., SPHERE and SPRINGE differ by the HER and RING). The only fish not covered is TURBOT. Since BOTTLENECK is the answer to the clue, **TURTLENECK** must be the missing answer.

3-2. Cut out the dominos, fold them in half, and arrange to spell words on both sides. Trial and error gives the nice pair of "answer" and, the answer, **MOROSE**.

3-3. The cryptic crossword is solved as an ordinary cryptic crossword; the answers, with brief explanations, are:

ACROSS 1. WIGLET (anagram of GILT WE), 4. BRAIN STEMS (BRA + ITEMS "to protect" NS = BRAI(NS)TEMS), 11. SHAKEOUTS (SHOUTS "about" JAKE "not starting" = SH(AKE)OUTS), 12. PERKIER (PERRIER has K for R), 13. RED LIGHTS (spoonerism of LED RITES), 14. REMAINS (REINS "about" MA = RE(MA)INS) 15. VIAL (homophone of VILE), 16. OPPOSITIONAL (OPTIONAL "to accept" SOP "left" by I = OP(POS + I)TIONAL), 21. BLACK OUT (LACK "to stop" BOUT = B(LACK)OUT), 22. BLACKOUT (anagram of LOCK TUBA), 25. SKELETON KEYS (anagram of YON KELTS SEEK), 27. MAZE (homophone of MAIZE), 29. FOUNDER (double definition), 31. NEATENING (NEAT + "put back" NINE + G), 34. EXTRACT (EXTRA + C[hitcha]T), 35. ARABESQUE (anagram of ARE BASQUE), 36. DISPATCHES (DITCHES "around" SPA = DI(SPA)TCHES) 37. ARDENT (anagram of RANTED) **DOWN** 1. WISER (anagram of WIRES), 2. GRAND LAMA (anagram of AND GAL ARM). 3. EDENIC (&lit; E[xpresse]D + anagram of NICE), 5. RESISTOR (RES + IS + "rampant" ROT). 6. IMPARTIALLY (IMP + ART + I + ALLY) 7. SCRIM (SCRIMP "shortened"). 8. EDITION ("about" NO. 1 TIDE), 9. SORES (homophone of SOARS). 10. OUCH ("dont initiate" TOUCH), 15. BES (VIES "to suppress" B = VI(B)ES). 17. PLUTOCRATIC (L in PUT + OCRATIC "with no crown" = P(L)UT + OCRATIC), 18. INCH ("beheaded" NCH), 19. LATTE (homophone of LOT, EH?), 20. OKIE (homophone of AKY), 23. ODALISQUE (O + DALI'S + QUE), 24. SKIN GAME (KING "is en in by" SAME = S(KING)AME), 26. EQUATES (E + QUA + S[ttakers]), 28. METEOR (anagram of REMOTE), 29. FIEND (FRIEND its out" R), 30. DRAMA (DRAM + A), 32. AJAR (A + JAR), 33. GUEST omophone of GUESSED).

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

The instruction indicated by the arrows is to black out (the letters) ACKOUT "in the network" (as the flavortext puts it); before doing so, we py the circled letters into the column of circles to the side, getting TOP IRD OF GRID. After the blacking out, the top third of the grid reads **BLISS** hich is hinted at in the title; Knowledge is Power, and contrariwise orange is . . .)

3-4. The puzzle is a modified German Sausage, an NPL puzzle type involving anagramming pairs of words in a chain. In this case, each word on the left is an anagram of the word on the right just above and just below it, plus one additional letter. (The first and last words are just five letters long, and the others nine.)

This puzzle is a modified German Sausage. The two ends don't link, and each pair of words has an additional letter mixed in to get the word on the left.

ADEPT = PEAT + D
 POETASTER = PEAT + ROTS + E
 PATRONESS = ROTS + NEAP + S
 DRAINPIPE = NEAP + DRIP + I
 DISPERSED = DRIP + SEES + D
 EAGERNESS = SEES + RANG + E

ARRESTING = RANG + TIES + R
REINSTATE = TIES + TERN + A
DETERRENT = TERN + REED + T
DEPARTURE = REED + RAPT + U
TRAMP = RAPT + M

Reading the additional letters from top to bottom, we get the solution: **DESIDERATUM**

Portfolio Summary 3. The rule is hidden in puzzle 3-1. Reordering the slides alphabetically by hidden fish, then taking the first letter of each note spells SOUND OUT LAST TRIGRAMS. The last trigrams are ECK, OSE, ISS, and TUM. Sounding them out produces **ECOSYSTEM**.