

ALICE JONES' CRYPTIC QUIP WALKTHROUGH

The Puzzle:

JAGM'L DU PGKVCRMF MARBI MV WV? R XREF LVXKRBI NYTTXFL, FLNFHRGXXU
 DGMAFDGMRHGX VBFL. MAFU'CF MAF QFLM! - GXRHF OVBFL

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
G												D													

The Steps:

Here is a breakdown of how I go about solving a cryptic quip. These are the techniques that work for me, but you might have a different way to figure it out. There's no right way to crack the code.

1. The newspaper has given me two letters to start off: G=A and D=M, so the first thing I do is fill those in.

JAGM'L DU PGKVCRMF MARBI MV WV? R XREF LVXKRBI NYTTXFL, FLNFHRGXXU
 JAAM'L MU PAKVCRMF MARBI MV WV? R XREF LVXKRBI NYTTXFL, FLNFHRAXXU
 DGMAFDGMRHGX VBFL. MAFU'CF MAF QFLM! - GXRHF OVBFL
 MAMAFMAMRHAX VBFL. MAFU'CF MAF QFLM! - AXRHF OVBFL

2. Next I look for small letters. The second word DU is a two letter word that starts with M...I can only think of one of those, so U must equal Y.

JAGM'L DU PGKVCRMF MARBI MV WV? R XREF LVXKRBI NYTTXFL, FLNFHRGXXU
 JAAM'L MY PAKVCRMF MARBI MV WV? R XREF LVXKRBI NYTTXFL, FLNFHRAXXY
 DGMAFDGMRHGX VBFL. MAFU'CF MAF QFLM! - GXRHF OVBFL
 MAMAFMAMRHAX VBFL. MAFY'CF MAF QFLM! - AXRHF OVBFL

3. When I fill in the Ys I notice an interesting group off repeated letters

MAFU'CF MAF
 MAFY'CF MAF

MAF is the start of two words in a row AND MAF is a word all by itself. And if that wasn't enough there's an apostrophe CF after the MAFY. So, I can assume CF=VE OR CF=RE. Either way, F=E. From there, I can see that MAE is most probably THE and MAFU is the word THEY (since we already figured out U=Y). So filling in our letter chart we have

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
G			F			A					D								M						

JAGM'L DU PGKVCRMF MARBI MV WV? R XREF LVXKRBI NYTTXFL, FLNFHRGXXU
 JHAT'L MY PAKVCRTE THRBI TV WV? R XREE LVXKRBI NYTTXEL, ELNEHRAXXY

DGMAFDGMRHGX VBFL. MAFU'CF MAF QFLM! - GXRHF OVBFL
 MATHEMATRHAX VBEL. THEY'CE THE QELT! - AXRHE OVBEL

4. Wow, that gets us a lot further. I can start to see words. MATHEMATRHAX looks an awful lot like MATHEMATICAL. So R=I, H=C and X=L

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
G		H		F			A	R				D								M				L	

JAGM'L DU PGKVCRMF MARBI MV WV? R XREF LVXKRBI NYTTXFL, FLNFHRGXXU
 JHAT'L MY PAKVCITE THIBI TV WV? I LIEE LVLKIBI NYTTLEL, ELNECIALLY

DGMAFDGMRHGX VBFL. MAFU'CF MAF QFLM! - GXRHF OVBFL
 MATHEMATICAL VBEL. THEY'CE THE QELT! - ALICE OVBEL

5. I won't fill in every detail from here, but you can deduce the first word is WHAT'S. Now we know J=W and L=S. You can see we found Alice's name, so we know the last word will be JONES. O=J, V=O, B=N AND L=S, and after that it's just filling in the gaps with the letters that make sense.

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
G		H		F			A	R	O		S	D	B	V					L	M			J	L	

WHAT'S MY PAKOCITE THINI TO WO? I LIEE SOLKINI NYTTLES, ESNECIALLY

MATHEMATICAL ONES. THEY'CE THE QEST! - ALICE JONES

Solution:

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

WHAT'S MY FAVORITE THING TO DO? I LIKE SOLVING PUZZLES, ESPECIALLY

MATHEMATICAL ONES. THEY'RE THE BEST! - ALICE JONES