

Worksheet 2

The Sphinx and the Riddles

Solving Riddles

"Many men come to look for the treasure.

All they must do is answer the riddle and then choose."

Riddles are intriguing and entertaining, as their answers are not always easy to see at first, but with much thoughtfulness, the solution eventually become clear.

Task 1: Solve these riddles by locating their answer in the table below.

<i>a snail</i>	<i>fire</i>	<i>a shadow</i>	<i>a candle</i>	<i>a dictionary</i>
<i>a cold</i>	<i>paint</i>	<i>breath</i>	<i>a river</i>	<i>a rug</i>
<i>a stamp</i>	<i>a towel</i>	<i>a coffin</i>	<i>stars</i>	<i>a tissue</i>

- What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries? _____
- What goes up and down the stairs without moving? _____
- What can you catch but not throw? _____
- What goes around the world but stays in a corner? _____
- The man who invented it doesn't need it. The man who bought it doesn't need it. The man who needs it doesn't know it. What is it? _____
- Give me food, and I will live; give me water, and I will die. _____
- Throw me off the highest building, and I'll not break. But put me in the ocean, and I will. _____
- What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps? _____
- I'm the part of the bird that's not in the sky. I can swim in the ocean and yet remain dry. _____
- I'm light as a feather, yet the strongest man can't hold me for much more than a minute. _____
- At night they come without being fetched, and by day they are lost without being stolen. _____
- I'm where yesterday follows today, and tomorrow's in the middle. _____
- If a man carried my burden, he would break his back. I am not rich, but I leave silver in my track. _____
- My life can be measured in hours; I serve by being devoured. Thin, I am quick; fat, I am slow. Wind is my foe. _____
- I am the kind of coat that can only be put on when wet. _____

Task 2: Can you answer this riddle on your own?

What does man love more than life? Fear more than death or mortal strife?

What do the poor have but the rich require? And what do contented men desire?

What does the miser spend; the spendthrift save, and all men carry to their graves?

Extension Activity:

- Present a selection of the riddles above to your classmates. Test them to see how quickly they can work out the correct answers.