the griddle handcrafted logical fun

November Grab Bag

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November 1, 2026
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Sudoku Poetry

Co-Authored by droqen (https://droqen.com)

I recently stumbled upon a concept called Sudoku Poetry that was posted on BlueSky. The premise is that the sudoku uses a standard 9x9 grid with 9 unique letters, is uniquely solvable as a regular sudoku, and forms a poem when read.

I love the concept. It reminds me of the Helter Skelter x Sudoku mashups I've made in the past using 9-letter words with unique letters, fed by crossword-style clues.

I tried writing my own sudoku poem but ran into a wall. Upon chatting with the original poster, they used my progress with some coding tools and came up with the puzzle here. Thank you very much to droqen for the assist and letting me share the sudoku poem with the audience!

longitude

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Solve Online via Penpa+ https://l.puz.fun/longitude

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LOCATION MARGARITAS

Happy Cinco de Mayo! Yikes... this little bar is packed! The drink waitress needs to work smarter, not harder, to get everyone their margaritas. Find a route ***moving from table to adjacent table*** to bring ***every table*** a drink, without visiting a table more than once, or moving diagonally, or running into the pillars, from the bar on the left to the kitchen on the right. That's a lot of margaritas! I'm pretty sure they're gonna ***take every fifth*** of tequila they can get their hands on. What's the absolute last thing on the bartender's mind tonight?

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G	■	I	W	H	S	T	E	■	O	■
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Restaurant Expansion

This is the original draft of my location puzzle for the May 2023 Puzzled Pint edition, 'Taco Tuesday'. It was deemed a bit too unwieldy and difficult so the one that was used was shrunk and made easier.

Why now?

I mentioned earlier this year that Team Providence won the 2026 MIT Mystery Hunt, and we are now writing the 2027 hunt. As we are getting to the pointy end of the writing process, our team captain, Sara Walker, made a remark in one of our chats that reminded me that I needed to post these alternate drafts that I have on hand. Not every puzzle can be perfect, but I hope they still bring you joy.

I think there exists a better version with a lot more time and energy, but I'm happy with it given where we are in the year

I have a few more alternate drafts and different puzzle concepts from the Taco Tuesday set that I will post in the future. For the full set as presented by Puzzled Pint, see https://thegriddle.net/events

After Mystery Hunt in January, I also plan to post some alternates, drafts, and other puzzle experiments from that experience.