October Challenge

Crack the Codes

Can you believe that trick or treating is believed to have first started back in 1921. That means Halloween as we know it started back on October 31, 1921 – that is over 100 years ago! Of course, Halloween was around before that. I wonder how they celebrated the first Halloween back in 1914. Or what about New Year's… Can you imagine how people celebrated December 31, 1914? It's crazy how times change – and how they are still changing!

Everyone loves a good code language. With the Reflect method, Pigpen, Symbolic method, Date Shift, Caesar Shift, Book Code, Acrostic, and Reverse methods: there is so many different codes to choose from in the written language and even more when you think of those used by computers! We even have codes in this world, that no one has cracked yet like the Voynich Manuscript; Kryptos; and the Beale Ciphers. This month try your hand at cracking these codes. Each level consists of a coded riddle. Decode the riddles, answer them, and present your work along with the answers (decoded) to the Youth Services Librarian, Rose Slike, by Halloween.

The first to crack all 3 codes and provide the correct answers will win a

$50 Barnes and Noble gift card!

Details:

- Participants must be in 7th through 12th grade. No consulting adults.
- Participants must physically show their work to the Youth Services Librarian. Email her at rslike@clarionfreelibrary.org or by messaging her on DISCORD to make sure she is at the library.
- Participants are allowed to help and consult each other; HOWEVER, only one person will receive the prize. This means NO GROUPS.
- The whole riddle must be decoded and in plain text as well as the answer to the riddle.
- The first to crack all 3 codes and provide the correct answers will win. If all codes are cracked, but the answer to the riddles are wrong, the participant will be given 2 more chances to answer correctly. If they are still unable to solve the riddles after a total of 3 guesses (the original and 2 extra), they will be disqualified and the prize still available for the next participant.
- If riddles are not decoded correctly, answers will not be accepted. Riddles MUST be correctly decoded in plain text.
- Answers will be accepted any time after October 1st

Must be submitted by October 31st, 2023

EASY:

22.2114918.14.1142618.1587.227.22617.2622118.

1228.17217.72122124.1415287.2618.1021222518.221.12285.35222618.

318232518.16512.1021181.2226.221.72118225.62220217.

2721186.252218.1022721.2618.142525.171412.14117.12220217.

1021147.1426.22.

MEDIUM:

8105.21231417.15721.189103196.7521191623196.7241913.244822.281819142018.23162118.

8116.3218.232368.1961511.82212.1019515.2015159.15217.241518.2242236241918.2241019.

224.8221.923118.258.811425.82121.384206.82.206231026.249610.321.92219.2025626.19233.

18517224.11319.18222118.114242619.72419.31623196.6116105111918.14226.32.92219.

17823278.1119521.4358321820.22319.247.821178.411872315219.

HARD:

11.107247.3218.117726.2217.2241957.15.103148.1917.7521.1218.2477.15.103148.1917.

141587.1218.17112412.1720.221210.42326.277112.12.717.31814.222621107.