

Tripling Hither, Tripling Thither

by Ucaoimhu

To honor 1 Across, some Across answers will have a particular “trigram” (sequence of three letters) in a single “special” square, thus conflicting with the single letter that a Down answer has in the same square. Starting at the topmost special square, trace a path through all those squares that follows the movement rule that someone like 1 Across obeys; the single letters for those squares, in path order, will say what 1 Across does to certain vital items.

All of the remaining Across answers are entered normally, but in the clues for all but one the wordplay part yields a letter sequence that has an extraneous trigram; these trigrams can be assembled (in some order) to form the name of another figure, slightly less powerful than 1 Across. Take all the clues for Down answers that intersect special squares, in path order; the first letters of these clues will spell out what this second figure does to those same vital items, and the last letters will spell out what those vital items are.

From each of the remaining Down clues you must remove one three-letter word before solving; in one clue, it is ambiguous which of two words must be removed. Depending on which word you choose, taking the three-letter words (in clue order) as an instruction to make certain letter substitutions and anagram the result, and applying this instruction to the only Across answer not yet used, will yield either (a) the one-word name of someone who poetically described 1 Across doing what 1 Across does, or (b) the two-word name of someone who did the same for the second figure.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7
8							
9			10				
11				12			
13	14	15		16	17	18	
	19						
20							
		21					

ACROSS

1. Powerful figure in Paris that destroyed mean bishop (2 wds.)
8. Decoration or label attached to empty nest
10. Understand ump going around Alaska by road
11. Be captivated by shopping center’s old nickname for the phone company (2 wds.)
12. Discontinue *Julius Erving, Ace Detective*, say
13. Can about three pieces from blessed comedienne “Moms”
16. Outdoes vacuous Spanish uncle at Washington State
19. Can a male that eats bass (2 wds.)
20. Nabob might hurt doohickey (var.)
21. Long Island guy swallowing actress Arthur’s vegetarian morsel (2 wds.)

DOWN

2. Ere desire destroyed city and appliance company (4)
3. Quartet from Reno you left with a substance that has a C=C(OH) group (4)
4. Prompt nobleman hits party mix at the end (5)
5. Nasty rage exhibited in part of a transmission (4)
6. One use for Italian that gets Dee to cancel (4)
7. Visit place, ignoring 1/3 of elm ICU and old Mr. Sajak (4 2)
9. That item obstructing Avery’s naked truthfulness (6)
12. Painter Rivera is to perish two times? (5)
14. Actor for Bert in *The Wizard of Oz Upset Rabbi Holbrook* (4)
15. Awfully vile! (4)
17. Instrument barely goes around Bo (4)
18. Stop calamity Ann described on the radio (4)