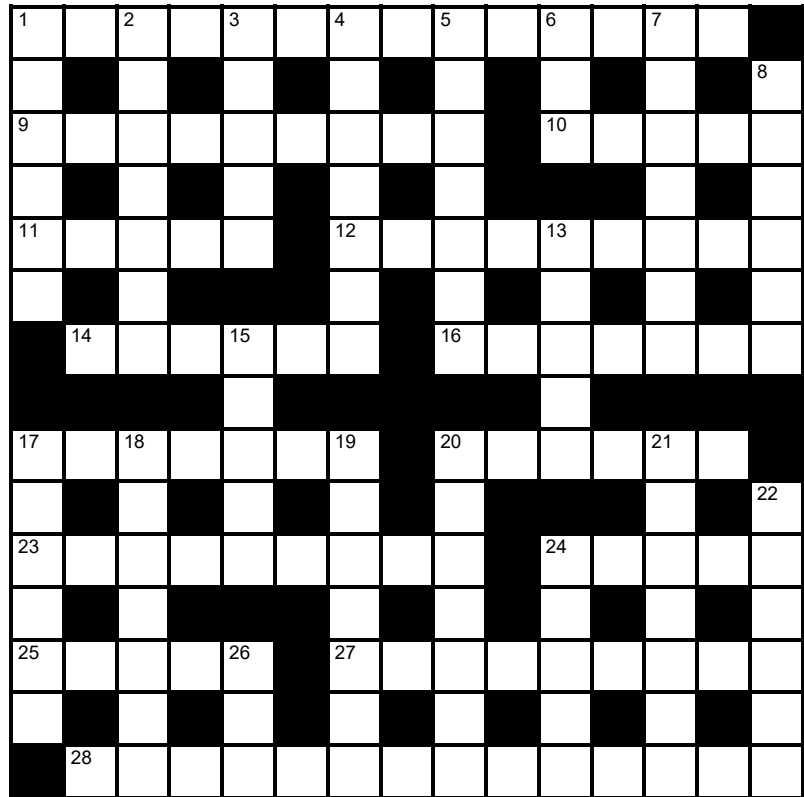


The first names of ten characters from two literary groups (having 12 members in total) are included in the completed grid. Each name is either part of an answer, or is formed at the intersection of two horizontally or vertically adjacent answers.

Who's missing?

Across

- 1 Conflict bordering disputed land - a clue in Caesar's time (6,8)
- 9 Dog eating small cat, a grisly ending's not unusual (9)
- 10 Iranian refugee son arrives early in European city (5)
- 11 Green, turning extremely ill with this? (1,4)
- 12 What's clear for tip about filling grid (3,6)
- 14 Poke fun at suspicion of lady's bristly growth (6)
- 16 Runner (male) put on extra outer layer (7)
- 17 I may be forced to regret voicing insult (7)
- 20 Where each animal docked with its pair? (6)
- 23 Eddy and me, almost right, but not exactly (9)
- 24 Sharp tipped pointy thing with pointy tips (5)
- 25 Dead unpleasant in a bad way (5)
- 27 Not paid, so fiddled takings (9)
- 28 Built water nests as home to rear birds (9,5)



Down

- 1 Jill's partner and others caught out lagging (6)
- 2 Flexible learner's part (7)
- 3 Ban violin in the nude, hence dressing (5)
- 4 Sound made by flute? (7)
- 5 Dressed as Sheila, yet technically one just dropped clothes (7)
- 6 Rest of rubbish sent back (3)
- 7 Slightly worse for wear later, whenever drunk (1,6)
- 8 Mark: Biblical book vicar placed first (6)
- 13 Try it on occasionally given bottomless glass for wine (5)
- 15 Unwelcome communications: jerk finally promoted (5)
- 17 Prepared me for a treat (6)
- 18 New crusade, old wheels (4-3)
- 19 Boat navigating river and a stream (7)
- 20 Opening for member from Harlem off globetrotting? (7)
- 21 Turned up nose, bottled sauce in old jar (7)
- 22 Buck's complaint, partially discontented hence overreaction of pupils (6)
- 24 Overweight-cardinal returns (5)
- 26 Mmmm rum you say. Bottoms up! (3)