

**Order**  
by Doug Davy

They showed him the list DOG CAT HORSE COW MOUSE SHEEP and told him to put the list in alphabetical order so he did ACCDEEEEGHHMOOOOPRSTUW but then they told him that no they wanted each *word* in alphabetical order. Even cow? Yes, of course even cow. So he sorted the list again DGO ACT EHORS COW EMOSU EEHPS and then they said I'm sorry can you put the *words* in order yes he could but no he did not want to.

He was tired. These were not good games they were bad games that made things come apart and so he pushed the list away and sat on the rug which was a map and he tapped the world together again:

*Tap*

*Tap tap tap*

*Tap tap tap tap tap*

*Tap tap tap tap tap tap tap*

*Tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap*

And on and on until thirty-seven when the numbers went down again.

Was he ready to play a different game no he was not. There was too much that was all around him a light that hummed and a strange smell. Things were all pulled apart in ways that were wrong and needed to be put together again with the right kind of pattern and sound *mmm mmm mmm* for radii made from red blocks around a center point C which was also was the perfect center of the room. Then coughing noises *hng hng, cng cng* for blue and green blocks that made a pattern across the rug which was a map. Why aren't you making a pattern now I *am* making a pattern even if the two ladies who made night bug noises can't see it. One of them had blue shoes and one blue shoe pushed a block out of place and he had to replace it or else all of his holding together wouldn't work.

The one without the blue shoes said would he like to return to the table and sit down? She touched his back and it was bad like cotton balls and he didn't like it but yes he would return to the table and sit down because things were held together.

Would he like more apple juice yes he would.

Could he sort these yes but how the star has five points and ten edges and a pentagon also has five points but also five edges which means it has the same number of points and edges like an octagon. Just sort them the way you think they should be sorted how can I sort them when I don't know how they are supposed to be sorted this game is bad.

One

Eight

Twenty-seven

Sixty-four

One hundred and twenty-five

Two hundred and sixteen

Three hundred and forty-three

Would he like to get off the floor and come back to his chair no he wanted to go to sleep. Please come back to your chair now.

They showed him a picture. What is happening in this picture the girl is standing up and the boy is lying down. Is anything wrong with the picture yes one of the girl's eyelids is a tangent. No is she behaving the way she should or is she doing something wrong she is just standing and the boy is just lying down. How do you know she is a girl because her hair is long. If a boy had long hair would he be a girl no he would not be a girl he would just be a boy with long hair.

Why is the boy sad I don't know. Was he hurt maybe he is asleep. He is crying maybe he is crying and asleep. Did the girl hurt him I don't know.

Things were coming apart again. He had to keep the whole world together and he was so tired. He sat on the rug and tapped everything back into place

*Tap*

*Tap tap tap*

*Tap tap tap tap tap*

And on and on until sixty-one. He took apart the pattern of red blocks and put it back in place with the center point *C* in the perfect center of the room.