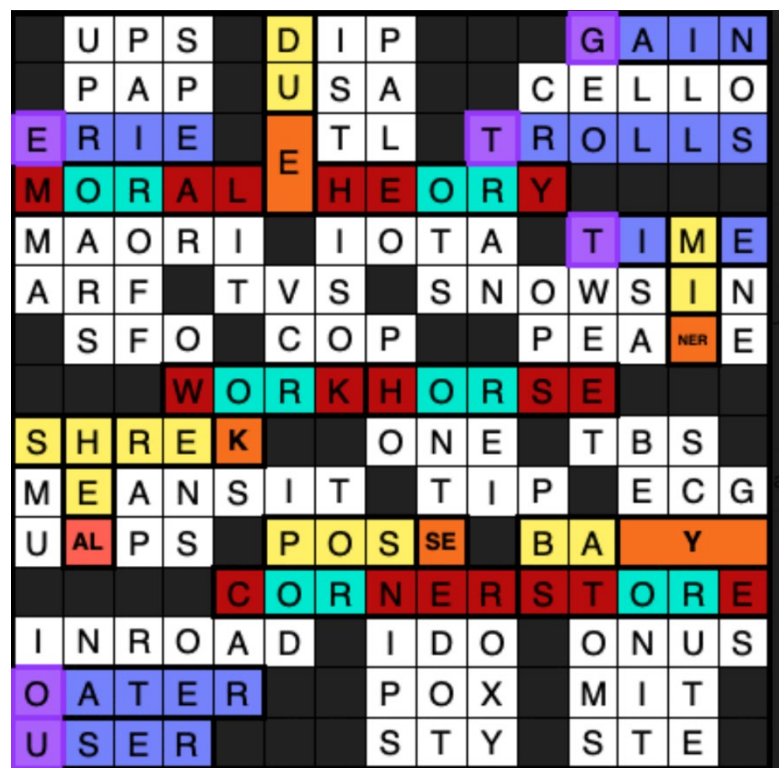
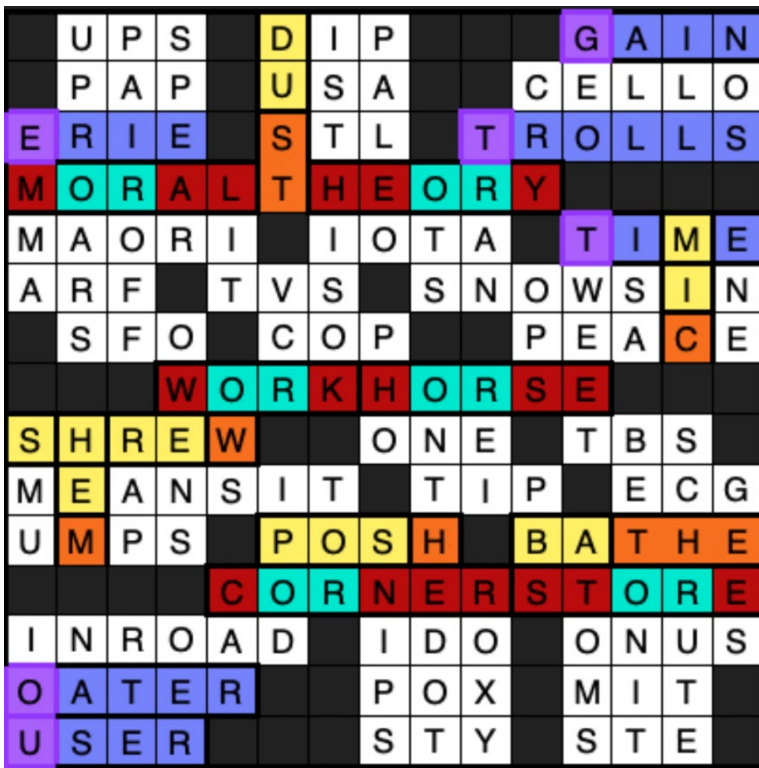


So you got a challenging puzzle in your inbox, and you're wondering where to start. Well, with the theme entries, of course! Here, we had MORAL THEORY, WORK HORSE, and CORNER STORE as the three longest across entries.

Then, you hopefully realized that all of those entries have two words, and all six words from the three theme entries all have the letters OR in them.

The tricky part was realizing that OR separated two "alternate endings" as the titled mentioned. In other words, MORAL could be parsed as M or AL, which means you're looking for another entry that ends with M that could instead end with AL. There was only one entry in the grid ending with M (HEM) and replacing the M with AL gave you a new word: HEAL.

Following those steps for all 6 parts of the theme entries gave you 6 new words that all matched other clues in the puzzle. Taking the first letters of the entries from the matching clues spelled the meta answer: **GET OUT**.



M	-OR-	AL	HEM	HEAL	7A	Make progress in a way	GAIN
THE	-OR-	Y	BATHE	BAY	14A	Certain body of water	ERIE
W	-OR-	K	SHREW	SHREK	16A	Dreamworks movie featuring mythical creatures	TROLLS
H	-OR-	SE	POSH	POSSE	67A	You might find a sheriff in one	OATER
C	-OR-	NER	MIC	MINER	70A	Person generating data, perhaps	USER
ST	-OR-	E	DUST	DUE	22A	Past ___ (later than ideal)	TIME
GET OUT							