

Matched

1. Verb
2. Adjective
3. Adverb
4. Verb
5. Verb
6. Plural Noun
7. Plural Noun
8. Adjective
9. Adjective
10. Verb
11. First Name
12. Adjective
13. Adjective
14. Adjective
15. Adverb
16. Noun
17. First Name
18. First Name
19. First Name
20. First Name
21. First Name
22. Adjective
23. Adjective

24. Verb

25. Past Tense Verb

26. Noun

27. Verb Ending In Ing

28. Verb Ending In Ing

29. First Name

30. Adjective

31. First Name

32. Noun

33. Noun

34. Noun

35. Noun

36. Year

37. Noun

38. Noun

Matched

Now that Iâ??ve found the way to _____ Verb which direction should I go into the night? My wings arenâ??t white or feathered; theyâ??re green, made of _____ Adjective silk, which shudders in the wind and bends when I moveâ??first in a circle, then in a line, _____ Adverb in a shape of my own invention. The black behind me doesnâ??t worry me; neither do the stars ahead.

I _____ Verb at myself, at the foolishness of my imagination. People cannot _____ Verb though before the Society, there were myths about those who could. I saw a painting of them once. White wings, blue sky, gold circles above their _____ Plural noun _____ Plural noun turned up in surprise as though they _____ Adjective believe what the artist had painted them doing, _____ Adjective believe that their feet didnâ??t touch the ground. Those stories werenâ??t true. I know that. But tonight, itâ??s easy to _____ Verb. The air train glides through the starry night so smoothly and my heart pounds so quickly that it feels as though I could soar into the sky at any moment.â??What are you smiling about?â?? _____ First name wonders as I smooth the folds of my _____ Adjective silk dress down neat.â??Everything,â?? I tell him, and itâ??s true. Iâ??ve waited so long for this : for my Match Banquet. Where Iâ??ll see, for the _____ Adjective time, the face of the boy who will be my Match. It will be the _____ Adjective time I hear his name. I canâ??t wait.

As _____ Adverb _____ as the air _____ Noun _____ moves, it still isn't fast enough. It hushes through the night, its sound a background for the low rain of our parents' voices, the lightning-quick beats of my heart. Perhaps _____ First name _____ can hear my heart pounding, too, because he asks, "Are you nervous?" In the seat next to him, _____ First name _____ older brother begins to tell my mother the story of his Match Banquet. It won't be long now until _____ First name _____ and I have our own stories to tell. "No," I say. But _____ First name _____ my best friend. He knows me too well. "You lie," he teases. "You are nervous." "Aren't you?" "Not me. I'm ready." He says it without hesitation, and I believe him. _____ First name _____ is the kind of person who is sure about what he wants. "It doesn't matter if you're nervous, Cassia," he _____ Adjective _____ now. "Almost ninety-three percent of those attending their Match Banquet exhibit some signs of _____ Adjective _____ you memorize all of the official Matching material?" "Almost," Xander says, grinning. He holds his hands out as if to say, "What did you expect?"

The gesture makes me _____ Verb _____ and besides, I _____ Past tense verb _____ all of the _____ Noun _____ too. It's easy to do when you read it so many times, when the decision is so important. "So you're in the minority," I say. "The seven percent who don't show any nerves at all." "Of course," he agrees. "How could you tell I was nervous?" "Because you keep _____ Verb ending in ing _____ and _____ Verb ending in ing _____ that." _____ First name _____ points to the _____ Adjective _____ object in my hands. "I didn't know you had an artifact." A few treasures from the past float around among us. Though citizens of the Society are allowed one artifact each, they are hard to come by. Unless you had ancestors who took care to pass things along through the years. "I didn't,

until a few hours ago, I tell him. Grandfather gave it to me for my birthday. It belonged to his mother.

What's it called? _____ asks. A _____ I say. I like the name very much.

Compact means small. I am small. I also like the way it sounds when you say it: com-pact. Saying the word

makes a sound like the one the artifact itself makes when it snaps shut. What do the _____ and

_____ mean? I'm not sure. I run my _____ across the letters ACM and the numbers

_____ carved across the golden surface. But look, I tell him, popping the compact open to show

him the inside: a little _____ made of real glass, and a small hollow where the original owner once

stored powder for her face, according to Grandfather. Now, I use it to hold the three emergency _____

that everyone carries: one green, one blue, one red...