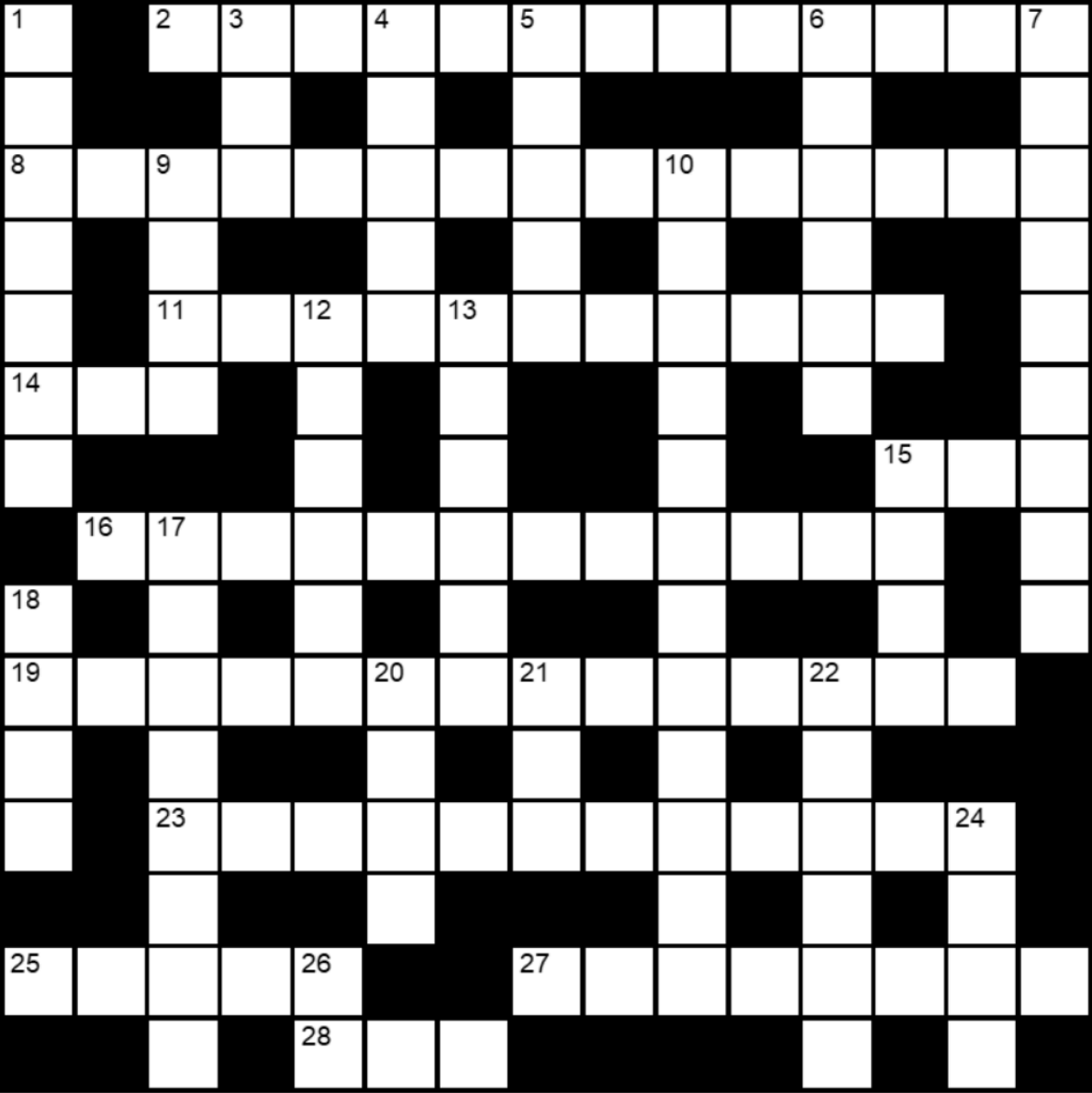


Literature-themed cryptic crossword



By Jane Fitzpatrick

Across

- 2 Maybe prank damsel, if Fanny's home (9,4)
- 8 The mate we share played mournful air (duet) (3,6,6)
- 11 Dorothea's journey makes average progress (11)
- 14 Reportedly become weaker beer (3)
- 15 Dance hit (3)
- 16 Shakespearean role, one with US form of delivery after July 4th cancelled (6,6)
- 19 Hardy hero could be our subject – heed! (4,3,7)
- 23 A nitrogen, sodium and potassium are first of nuclides in a narrative of fatal attraction (4,8)
- 25 Beast stays regularly, for the first Mrs Rochester's mental state (5)
- 27 Tarzan's mate to look at (right into) literary heroine (4,4)
- 28 Trimmed beard and found some corn (3)

Down

- 1 Strange fop at do is Dickens-era thief (7)
- 3 Leaders of assembly invite members to move with purpose (3)
- 4 Oddly, start and end satisfied (5)
- 5 Claim agent is hiding picture (5)
- 6 Caspian's rank promotion nice perhaps (6)
- 7 Child slept through Davy Balfour's adventure (9)
- 9 City where romance can foolishly be lost (4)
- 10 Honest and intense doctor patched together monster (12)
- 12 Portray and remove ancient Scottish tribe? (6)
- 13 Principles seem to reveal what Bingley is to Netherfield Park (6)
- 15 I got out of the brier, brother! (4)
- 17 Breezes through cheerful early versions (8)
- 18 Open a container (4)
- 20 Dickens character reportedly makes a pile (4)
- 21 Nothing soft about German grandpa (3)
- 22 Got together in duet ensemble (6)
- 24 Amiss? Use roadway without ado (4)
- 26 You can be timeless, yet... (2)