

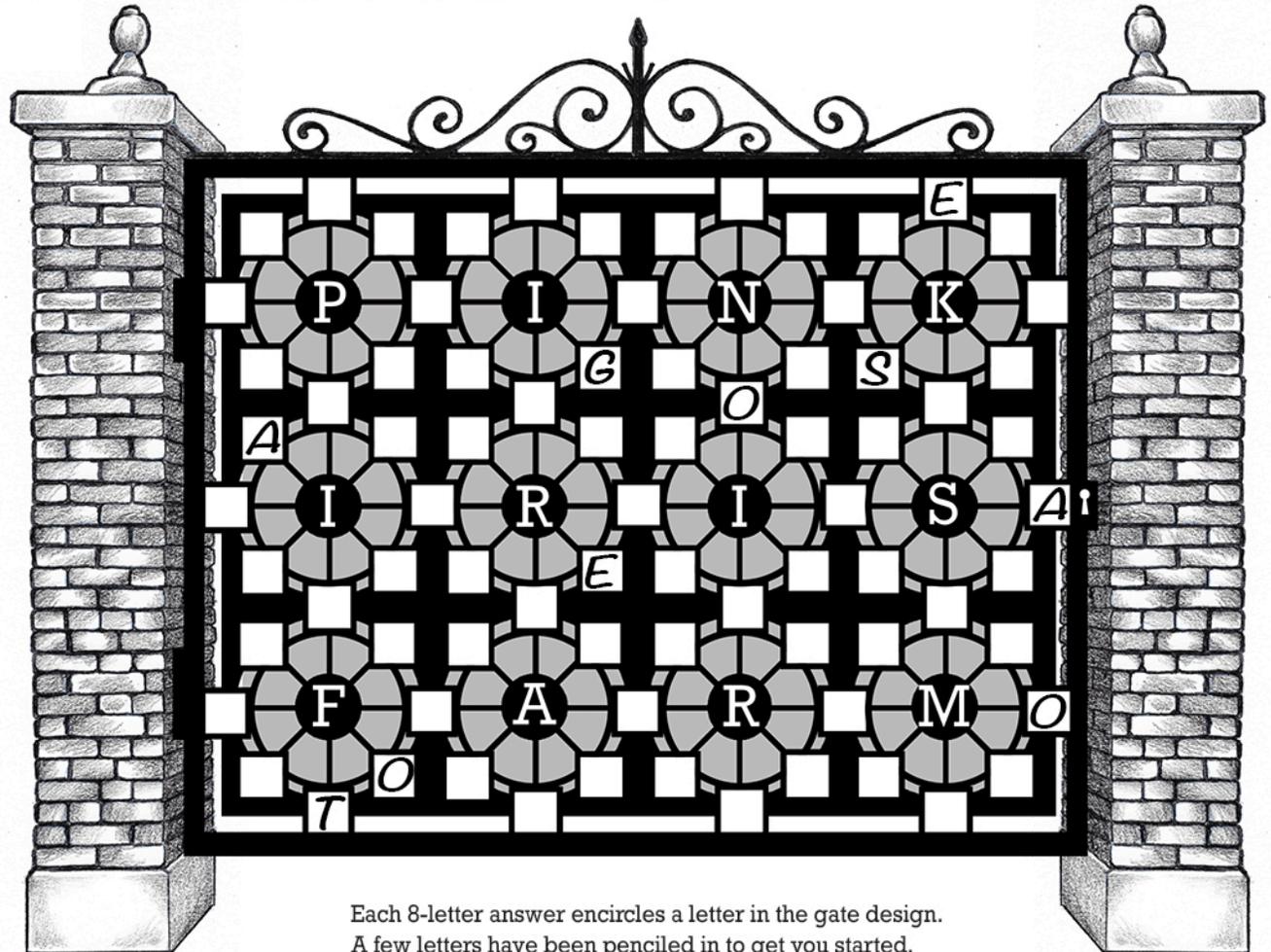


Holmes and I arrived at the front gate of Pink Iris Farm just as Bessel approached with a well-populated ring of tarnished keys. The ornate wrought iron gate swung open with an eerie squeal and I noticed that Bessel reacted with a subtle grin. He enjoyed the sound. I wondered how anyone could turn corners in the hallways of the manor if it meant a chance of running into Bessel. He inspired in me only dread and discomfort.

I stared at the strange gate design, trying to make heads or tails of it! As we contemplated entering, I prayed we would solve this crime swiftly and not end up **going in circles**. Where should we start, I wondered? What direction should we go? Holmes soon **signaled me** to follow him through the gate as he entered the impressive country estate grounds. I couldn't shake the feeling that he recognized clues that I had missed.

(In order L to R)

1. Fibrous tree material used in paper (2 wds.)
2. Making use of a scale
3. Internationally known American satire publication (2 wds.)
4. Someone such as Dr. Whatsit, Chewbacca, or Robin, the Boy Wonder
5. Absolutely necessary
6. Wedding
7. Becoming aware of
8. "     and watches the show" (doesn't take action) (2 wds.)
9. Old, derogatory anatomical term for a police officer, or perhaps someone with fallen arches
10. Sweet almond-flavored liqueur
11. More irritable than one of Snow White's Dwarfs?
12. A name that describes something inaccurately such as "peanut" which is not actually a nut



Each 8-letter answer encircles a letter in the gate design.  
A few letters have been penciled in to get you started.