

Try to solve the following mysteries. When you think that you have an answer, write it out and justify your reasons for the solution. Write your answer on another sheet of paper.

1. One night, my Aunt Hannah was reading a book and was just getting to an exciting part, when a storm knocked out all the electrical power to her house. Aunt Hannah had no matches, candles, flashlights, or any other means of light, but she just kept right on reading until she finished her book. How could she do that?
2. Every day, Mandy rises up out of bed, gets in the elevator in her building, and presses the button to take her to the lobby. At the end of the day, when she returns from work, she gets in the elevator and presses the button for the ninth floor. She gets out and walks up 5 floors to her room, even though the elevator would take her to her floor. Why? (She doesn't do it for the exercise.)
3. The Reverend Terry Fallhard announced that Sunday he would perform a great miracle. He said that he would walk on the surface of the Red River without sinking into the water. A large crowd gathered to witness the event. The Reverend did exactly what he said he would. How?
4. Last week, I turned off the light in my bedroom and managed to get to bed before the room was dark. If the bed was 10 feet from the light switch that controls the light, how did I do it?
5. Osgood Farkle of Podunk County has married twenty different women from the same town. All are still living, and he never divorced any of them. Yet he broke no law. Can you explain?
6. "This parrot will repeat any word it hears," said the pet shop owner. A woman bought the bird, but brought it back a week later to complain that the bird had not yet spoken a single word. However, the pet shop owner had told the truth. Explain.
7. Doug Grave was taking a vacation when he read about a bottomless well in a small town. He decided to visit the town, and when he arrived, he stopped at the post office to ask for directions. When he got to the house where the well was located, he met a local teacher who offered a challenge to Doug. The teacher claimed she could throw a 5-pound weight into the well, no strings or ropes attached, and be able to fetch it in ten seconds. How was this possible?