

PUZZLES

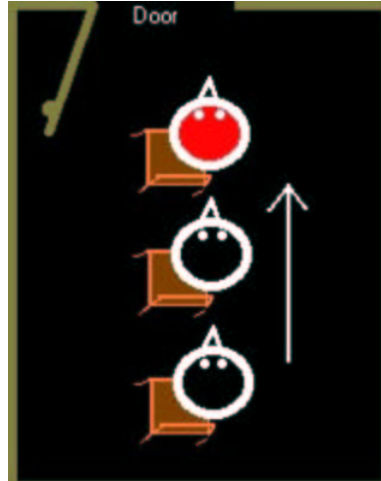
The TWENTY-FIRST
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ANOTHER HAT PROBLEM

This one comes with a plot. You (the guy with the red head) are about to lose your job, or so you fear. Your boss has taken you and two other employees to a separate room containing three chairs lined up facing an open door, one behind the other. He then seats each of you in a chair; you receive the chair in the front. Your boss then blindfolds each of you and places a hat on each of your heads, explaining, "I am carrying five hats. Three of those hats are black; the other two are white. I have placed a hat on each of your heads, keeping two hats for myself. When I leave the room, you may remove your blindfolds, but remain facing forward and do not communicate with each other. When you are certain of the color of your hat, you may get up and leave through the door in the front. Those who do not leave this room will lose their jobs." Some time goes by before you stand up, walk through the door, and tell the boss the color of your hat. What color was it? How could you be certain? Who else leaves?

- Each person can see (1) those sitting in front of them and (2) the door - nothing else.
- They may not communicate

Even Aristotle could do this.



What do the following words have in common?

- curt
- ostentatious
- recondite
- spelled
- common
- intangible
- terse
- sesquipedalian
- English

Can you think of any more? If so, email us!

So what if Freud can do it??

Even Freud could do this.

Easy

Even Pythagoras could do this.

Not easy

Even Aristotle could do this.

More challenging

Even Kant could do this.

This is a hard problem.

(cf. Autological)

Even Ray Mayer could do this.

Go ask him for help.

Questions? Blitz: puzzles@reed.edu

Think you know the answer?

For more info on these puzzles, go to
<http://www.reed.edu/~mcphailb/quest/>