

Solution to No Dice!

By Adam Liechty

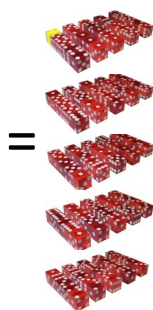
1. Notice that the title, NO DICE! Has a die in a different die orientation beneath each letter. This suggests that the orientation of a die in the picture translates to a letter:



2. Starting with the free letters in NO DICE, solve for the rest of the alphabet with the strings of dice on both pages. Q and Z are excluded, since there are only 24 orientations of a die that vary by 90-degree rotations:



3. The text on the first page, when translated reads:
The five by five by five cube is a stack of the five layers.



The expanded layers show the orientations of all 125 dice in the 5x5x5 cube. This means that each die can be translated into a letter. No need to translate them all yet... The text on the second page helps you start:

4. Translate the dice strings on the second page:
 - Read top face.
 - Gray block sets are keys.
 - Big cube contains tumblers on three axes.
 - Align yellows.
 - Reposition displaced dice MOD five to maintain cube.

5. The top face reads:

PUSHK

EYINT

OPAND

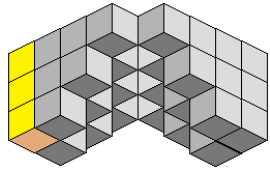
READB

OTTOM

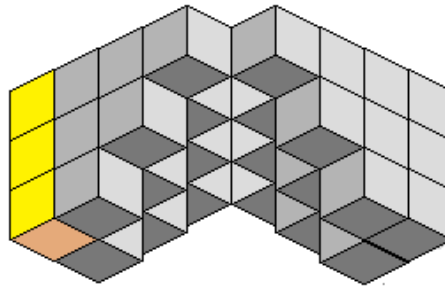
PUSH KEY IN TOP AND READ BOTTOM

6. Push the gray block set labeled "KEY" when translated into the top of the cube, rotating the gray blocks so that the yellow corner of the gray blocks aligns with the yellow corner on the top of the cube. The 25 vertical columns of dice act as tumblers in a 3D lock and are displaced out the bottom of the cube. The displaced dice emerging from the bottom will be the same shape as the key and the hole in the top of the cube. Move them to the top to fill in the hole. Mathematically, think of the height of a given column in the key being subtracted from the original height of each die

Pick the "KEY" set of blocks.



→



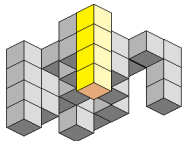
7. After pushing the gray blocks down and cycling the dice pushed out the bottom to the hole in the top, read the bottom of the resulting cube:

DRIVE
OINKE
RSINT DRIVE OINKERS IN
HEBAC THE BACK LEFT
KLEFT



8. Push the block set labeled "SWINE" in dice-code into the back-left of the cube and read the opposite (front-right) side as in steps 6 & 7. Be sure to align the yellows.

REPTI
LESPL
ATONI REPTILES PLATONIC
CSOLI SOLID IIEE
DIIEE



9. The "IIEE" is just junk, but since the beginning of the puzzle told you to use an M.C. Escher work, look up his drawing called *Reptiles*. The only Platonic solid appearing in this drawing is a **DODECAHEDRON**, which the snorting reptile is sitting on.

Luckily for you, I removed the third iteration that uses the OSTEICHTHYES blocks.

Reptiles: <http://search.live.com/images/results.aspx?q=mc%20escher%20reptiles&FORM=BIRE>

