

Answers to 2020 Christmas Cryptograms

1. Strings of street lights, even stoplights
Blinkin' bright red and green
As the shoppers rush home with their treasures.
Hear the snow crunch, see the kids bunch
This is Santa's big day
And above all this bustle you hear
— Silver Bells
2. On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Ten lords a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a-milking, etc. — trampoline time
3. For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government shall be upon his shoulder.
And his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. — Isaiah
4. A clause set off by em dashes is like dropping underwater while swimming breaststroke—just a quick dip before popping back to the sentence's surface. A parenthetical clause is more like diving down to the pool bottom to pick up a coin. And a footnote is a full-blown scuba dive — you have strapped on equipment and left the surface behind and you had better, after going to all that trouble, see something interesting down there. — Ben Dolnick
5. There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there always has been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that "my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge." — Isaac Asimov
6. Supporting and enabling people who solve the world's problems can be just as important as solving the problems yourself. — Wei-Hwa Huang
7. The coming age of robot vehicles should find us dreaming not of their role in this world but of their risk and potential in a future not yet made. — just roll with it
8. Where human frailties really get in the way is when science gets caught up in politics.
— Mark Serreze
9. A champion sprinter may be up and running and already sixteen or eighteen feet into the race before he is consciously aware that the starting gun has fired. — Oliver Sacks
10. We know too little about too many things. Knowledge is too specialized for most of us to acquire much of it. — Robert Samuelson
11. It's not cat hair that people are allergic to, just hair coated in cat spit. — Science News
12. How strangely will the tools of a tyrant pervert the plain meaning of words! — Samuel Adams
13. Go down deep enough into anything and you will find mathematics. — Charles Sumner Slichter