

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

Mad about words

Of all the thousands of contributors who helped create the *Oxford English Dictionary* (*OED*), none is more intriguing than Dr William Chester Minor of Crowthorne. When the original editor James Murray appealed in 1879 to the 'English-speaking and English-reading public' to submit annotated citations of word usage for the *OED* he had no idea that it would lead to a 30-year relationship with a deeply delusional schizophrenic and murderer. In terms of volunteer contribution to the *OED*, Murray acknowledged that Dr Minor held the 'supreme position'. More than a century after Dr Minor's death, his legacy is assured as the latest revision of the *OED* still contains much of his work.

The improbable collaboration between the lexicographer (a person who writes or compiles a dictionary) and the American imprisoned for life in Broadmoor Asylum for Criminal Lunatics in Crowthorne is brought to life in Simon Winchester's bestselling book, *The surgeon of Crowthorne*. Dr Minor's first batch of quotations was probably submitted in 1880 soon after he came across Murray's plea for help. Murray was amazed by Dr Minor's great lexicographical skills. In total, Dr Minor contributed more than 12 000 quotations—sometimes more than a hundred a week—using his vast personal library within the asylum. After more than a decade of correspondence, Murray was intrigued as to why Dr Minor, who lived only 40 miles away, had never visited him. That mystery was solved in 1889 when a chance reference in a conversation with an American scholar revealed Dr Minor's circumstances.

Dr Minor was born in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1834. He graduated from Yale Medical School in 1863 and worked as a surgeon in the Union Army during the Civil War. His experiences there unnerved him badly and he was treated in an asylum before retiring from the Army. In 1872 while visiting London, Dr Minor shot and killed an innocent man, George Merrett. Dr Minor suffered from paranoid delusions that Merrett was persecuting him. He was found not guilty due to insanity and imprisoned at Crowthorne, never to be released. From the asylum, he wrote a letter of apology to George Merrett's widow and even sent money to the family. Mrs Merrett accepted his apology and visited him, even bringing parcels of books.

Dr Minor had never disclosed his status to Murray who had assumed he was a medical officer at the institution. Murray was deeply affected by the revelation and resolved to 'write to him more respectfully and kindly than before, so as to show no notice of this disclosure'. Murray met Dr Minor for the first time in 1891 and for the next twenty years, in addition to corresponding frequently, they met dozens of times at Broadmoor. Murray played an influential role in securing Dr Minor's transfer to an American asylum in 1910. According to Dr Oliver Sacks, a British neurologist and psychologist, the development of the friendship between Dr Minor and the editor of the *OED* is an example of 'the redemptive potential of work and love in even the most deeply, hopelessly psychotic'.

36. The title of the article, *Mad about words*, is an example of
- (A) a pun.
 - (B) paradox.
 - (C) hyperbole.
 - (D) an allusion.
37. Murray said that Dr Minor held the “supreme position”. This refers to
- (A) his knowledge of the overall content of the *OED*.
 - (B) his influence over what would be included in the new *OED*.
 - (C) his role as the most important unpaid contributor to the *OED*.
 - (D) his leadership at the head of the team of lexicographers at the *OED*.
38. Why does the writer describe the collaboration between Murray and Dr Minor as ‘improbable’?
- (A) Dr Minor and Murray had never met.
 - (B) Dr Minor was a patient in an insane asylum.
 - (C) Dr Minor was an American working on a British project.
 - (D) Dr Minor was a doctor and Murray was a lexicographer.
39. The word ‘unnerved’ in the third paragraph could be replaced with
- (A) injured.
 - (B) enraged.
 - (C) disturbed.
 - (D) incapacitated.
40. How did Murray react when he discovered the truth about Dr Minor’s situation?
- (A) He decided to try to help Dr Minor return to America.
 - (B) He felt dismayed about the possible effect on the dictionary.
 - (C) He was moved and determined to continue their relationship.
 - (D) He was embarrassed that he had taken advantage of Dr Minor’s knowledge.
41. What is the main purpose of including the quotation from Dr Sacks?
- (A) to change the focus of the text
 - (B) to increase the objectivity of the text
 - (C) to give a qualified opinion on the text
 - (D) to make a summative statement on the text