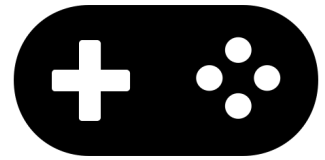


← → 0 ←
SOLUTION



Spring 2018

After staring at the puzzle for a while, one notices that many of the word fragments can be turned into words by adding the letters "b" and/or "y", and occasionally "x" and "a". This also makes the title of the puzzle clear - adding two "x"s creates the word xbox. The two left arrows represent the direction of the "x" key on the xbox controller. The controller has 4 keys, "x", "y", "a", "b". Each represent one direction. First filling in the missing letters in the words gives:

Fragment	Completed Word	Directions Extracted
ronze	bronze	→
hpe	hype	↑
crums	crumbs	→
odsse	odyssey	↑ ↑
oms	bombs	→→
cne	acne	↓
uos	buoys	→ ↑
eti	yeti	↑
piel	pixel	←
eerow	eyebrow	↑ →
osled	bobsled	→→
enjo	enjoy	↑
jerse	jersey	↑
iccle	bicycle	→ ↑

Applying these directions to the letter grid, results in spelling the phrase SKRIM FCTION OF SSSSINS.

T	F	E	E	W	F	R	S
E	O	M	O	N	C	I	N
L	P	L	G	O	X	S	R
W	D	L	F	S	S	S	E
H	O	E	O	N	E	G	L
C	M	F	C	O	U	T	N
E	I	O	T	I	Q	W	P
K	R	L	G	R	D	N	E
S	E	P	O	V	L	O	E

Again adding any letters from the set {x, y, a, b} that are missing gives SKYRIM FACTION OF ASSASSINS, which refers to the DARK BROTHERHOOD.