Problem of the Week
Problem B and Solution
Qwerty Words

Problem
Use the given keyboard to solve the riddles below. Each letter in each row of letters has the point value indicated at the end of the row. Shaded letters are letters which are usually typed with the left hand. In your answer, letters may be used more than once.

NOTE: Each riddle will have more than one answer. You may wish to compare with your classmates.

Find a word that:

a) has three letters, is typed with the left hand only, and is worth 5 points;
b) has six letters and uses only rows 1 and 3;
c) is typed with the right hand only, and is worth 6 points;
d) is four letters long, and uses only row 2;
e) is worth exactly 9 points;
f) has three syllables and is worth either 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15 points;
g) is worth fewer than 5 points and is typed with both hands;
h) is a three-letter word worth either 6, 7, 8 or 9 points;
i) is worth 20 points with the letter values changed to 6 points each for Row 1;
j) is worth exactly 20 or 21 points and the letter values are the same as the ones originally given. Hyphenated words are acceptable. See how many different words your class can come up with.

Solution
NOTE: Many, many answers are possible. Students could verify each other’s answers. In part (h), a three-letter word worth 9 points is not possible.

  a) Bee, vet, sat, saw, was
  b) Myopic, exotic, poetic, better
  c) Nil, him, hum
  d) Dash, gash, lads, sash
  e) Chum, buns, nuns, mums, cane
  f) Syllable, insulate, larceny, position
  g) Ire, toy, pat, let, putt, pity, me
  h) Ace, big, lad, nib, cub, van, nab
  i) Toys, rows, ladder, caber, slacken
  j) pomegranates