

Beholder (solution)

by Ong Kah Kien

The puzzle title and flavortext references the saying “beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder”. Each of the 11 rows of symbols represent a common saying/phrase that contains the word “eye”, “eyes” or “eyed”, similar to how the Beholder has 11 eyes. These phrases are referenced by the 11 text clues, some of which are more specific and serve as entry points to identifying the phrases. The order of the clues and symbols do not match, but the rows of symbols are unique. Each row has either a single border circle, a double border, or an oval, as well as a rectangle with a numbered index. The aha is that the single border circle represents the word “eye”, the double border circle represents the word “eyes”, while the oval represents the word “eyed”. Each phrase also has the commonality of having an animal word, and this matches the rectangle with the numbered index. Using these rules to match the right clue answer phrase to its row of symbols, it can further be observed that the rows are in alphabetical order of the animals. Extracting from the animal word using the numbered index gives a letter for each phrase. And putting these letters in the given order of the text clues matching these phrases, the answer for this puzzle **SUPERFICIAL** can be obtained. This answer is a thematic reference to another saying “superficial beauty” or “beauty is only skin-deep”.

The list of phrases, in given order of the matching text clues and extracted letters are summarized in the table below:

Text clue	Phrase	Animal Word	Index	Extracted Letter
Worst possible result	snake eyes	SNAKE	1	S
Give a pleading expression	make puppy dog eyes	PUPPY DOG	2	U
Glance in an amorous way	make sheep’s eye	SHEEP’S	5	P
Innocent or naïve appearance	doe-eyed	DOE	3	E
Survivor song	eye of the tiger	TIGER	5	R
Paint coat defects	fisheyes	FISH	1	F
Exclamation of emphatic disbelief	in a pig’s eye	PIG’S	2	I
Stephen King film	cat’s eyes	CAT’S	1	C
Top-down perspective	a bird’s eye view	BIRD’S	2	I
To be very observant	have eyes like a hawk	HAWK	2	A
To watch very closely	keep an eagle eye on	EAGLE	4	L

Note that “puppy dog” is defined in Merriam Webster as a domestic dog with lovable characteristics like a puppy.

Constructor’s notes:

This is intended to be an easy and straightforward puzzle around the theme of “eye”, which fits the Beholder. And the well-known saying of “beauty lies in the eye of the beholder” gave inspiration to using phrases which have the word “eye”, “eyes” or “eyed”. The reference to beauty also provides an apt link to the puzzle answer. In line with the horror theme for this hunt, the Beholder is also such an iconic and fearsome D&D monster that it is a very deserving inclusion as one of the Montauk round puzzles.