

SOLUTION:

Complete the sudoku, then map the circled numbers back to letters using the system shown in the flavortext to get a five-letter word.

5	7	4	1	9	2	8	3	6
6	2	3	8	7	5	4	1	9
1	8	9	4	3	6	2	5	7
7	9	2	3	8	1	6	4	5
3	6	8	5	4	7	9	2	1
4	5	1	6	2	9	7	8	3
8	3	6	7	1	4	5	9	2
2	4	5	9	6	3	1	7	8
9	1	7	2	5	8	3	6	4

"STAGE"