Nothing says 2021 like being sat in quarantine somewhere. Currently, I’m sitting out Covid-19 jail in my sister’s house. A real book lover, her shelves are crammed two, sometimes three books deep, but as I look there is a definite blue hue. One book sticks out in particular. The spine of the paperback copy of Mandela’s *Long walk to freedom* has changed completely to cyan without a trace of the iconic greens and yellows of the South African flag, which remain on the front cover. Why would this colour in particular be the destination for so many of my sister’s old photos and book covers?

Submit your own brainteaser. Send your idea to eic@rsc.org by 8 October and your puzzler could be in the November issue.