

21 Tossups

1. In this novel, a ski jumper named Nils tries to rape Libby after she responds by quoting Raleigh's "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" when he tries to seduce her by reading her "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love." In this novel, Gus LeRoy has an affair with Polly but eventually returns to his wife, in part because he promised his wife to undergo psychoanalysis. Other characters in this novel include Priss Hartshorn, who debates whether to breastfeed her son, and (*) Dottie Renfrew, who is deflowered by an arrogant artist named Dick Brown. This novel begins with the marriage of the unsuccessful playwright Harald Petersen to Kay Strong, and ends with Kay's funeral. Taking place in the 1930s, it follows the lives of eight friends who graduated from Vassar. For 10 points, name this novel by Mary McCarthy.

ANSWER: *The Group*

2. This character is the subject of a laudatory song which describes him as a "hunter with eyeballs of flame" after asking "Who has delivered us, who?" At the beginning of the story in which he appears, this character nearly drowns, but is saved by a boy named Teddy. This character kills Karait, and is warned by Chuchundra that he may be in danger. In *Man and Superman*, Ann's nickname for Octavius is a (*) pun on this character's name. In a climactic scene, he follows an enemy into her underground lair, and emerges victorious after a lengthy battle. This character, whose name derives from his war cry, is an ally of the tailor bird Darzee, and his nemeses are Nag and Nagaina, a pair of cobras. For 10 points, name this brave mongoose from Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*.

ANSWER: Rikki-Tikki-Tavi

3. The speaker of this poem describes her lover clasping her "aching, melting, unafraid" after chasing her through a maze. One character in this poem "had a whim that sunlight carried blessing," although the speaker of this poem takes refuge from the heat of the sun in the shade of a lime tree. The speaker of this poem wears a stiff brocade and a dress with a pink and silver train, and she makes note of the daffodils and squills blowing in the wind. This poem, which was published in the collection *Men*, (*) *Women and Ghosts*, ends by asking "Christ! What are [the title things] for?" It describes the speaker walking "down the garden paths" after receiving a letter informing her that her fiancée Lord Hartwell has been killed in action. For 10 points, name this anti-war poem by Amy Lowell.

ANSWER: "Patterns"

4. The protagonist of this novel has a therapist named Rena who is a Santeria priestess. A coal salesman in this novel is beaten by a paramilitary officer after stepping on his foot, and is later murdered. This novel begins with its protagonist making a Mother's Day card with a dried daffodil in it for her aunt. The narrator of this novel invents a man named Henry Napoleon to avoid telling her mother that she is in love with her neighbor (*) Joseph, with whom she has a daughter named Brigitte. Several characters in this novel are regularly tested for virginity by their mothers. The narrator's mother Martine is haunted by the rape she suffered as a young woman in the cane fields, and the narrator lives with her mother in New York and with Tante Atie in Haiti. For 10 points, name this novel about Sophie Caco by Edwidge Danticat.

ANSWER: *Breath, Eyes, Memory*

5. A character in this novel tells a story about a gnat after being made fun of by Satyros because his name is the same as the Greek word for gnat, *konops*. This novel opens by describing a painting of Eros leading Zeus in the form of a bull with Europa sailing on top of him. The female protagonist of this novel appears to die twice, once by beheading and once by being sacrificed, but it turns out that another woman had been beheaded instead of her and that the sacrifice was faked using animal entrails and a prop sword. (*) Thersandros frames the male protagonist of this novel for murder after that protagonist agrees to marry Thesandros' wife Melite. At the end of this novel, the male protagonist is proven innocent and the female protagonist proves that she is still a virgin, and the two get married in Byzantium. For 10 points, name this ancient Greek novel by Achilles Tatius.

ANSWER: *The Loves of Leucippe and Clitophon* [or *Ta kata Leukippen kai Kleitophonta*]

6. In Arabic poetry, the equivalent of this genre is known as *naqa'id*. A work in this genre by Patrick Hume of Polwarth and Alexander Montgomerie contributed to the latter's ascension to the leadership of the Castalian Band. The earliest surviving example of this genre from Scotland is called *Sir John the Rose*, and it features the makars William Dunbar and Walter Kennedy. In a famous scene in this specific genre, a character boasts that he killed nine sea monsters after another character criticizes his decision to have a swimming contest with Breca. That exchange takes place between Unferth and the title character of *Beowulf*. The most noted example of this genre in Norse literature is probably the *Lokasenna*. For 10 points, name this genre which, much like modern rap battles, consists of the exchange of poetic insults.

ANSWER: flyting [prompt on anything about exchanging insults]

7. One part of this tale has been called the "hissing stanza" because of the sibilance of its lines, such as when a character decries the singing "of such sentence which is against your law's reverence." The narrator of this tale weeps at the death of a small mouse, and swears to Saint Loy. At the end of this tale, the protagonist is compared to Little Saint Hugh of Lincoln, who suffered a similar fate. In this tale, the body of a young boy miraculously starts to (*) sing the hymn "Alma Redemptionis Mater" and doesn't stop until a grain is removed from his tongue. This tale, which opens with an invocation to the Virgin Mary, is told by Madame Eglantine, who wears a brooch with the motto "Amor vincit omnia." In this tale, some Jews are hanged for murdering a boy at the behest of Satan. For 10 points, name this rather anti-Semitic section of *The Canterbury Tales*.

ANSWER: "The Prioress's Tale"

8. This poem predicts an ignominious fate for "he who mocks the infant's faith" and "he who shall teach the child to doubt." One couplet from this poem, which was published separately by the poet with a slightly different wording, describes how "the caterpillar on the leaf reminds thee of thy mother's grief." The Doors' song "End of the Night" quotes this poem's lines about how "some are (*) born to sweet delight" while "some are born to endless night." This poem declares that "a robin redbreast in a cage puts all heaven in a rage." This poem, which consists largely of a litany of paradoxes, begins "To see a world in a grain of sand and a heaven in a wild flower, hold infinity in the palm of your hand, and eternity in an hour." For 10 points, name this poem by William Blake.

ANSWER: "Auguries of Innocence"

9. This character is described as being "lousy and reconciled to being so." At one point, this character quotes the closing couplet of a Heinrich Heine poem about morphine. The directions in the play in which this character appears frequently instruct that his lines are to be delivered sardonically. He ends that play staring out the window, oblivious to the racket caused by the rest of the characters (*) singing different songs at the same time, and finally wishing for his own death. This character's ex-girlfriend is the mother of Don Parritt, a former member of the anarchist movement, which this character calls "the Movement." This character, who is called "the old foolosopher" by Theodore Hickman, believes he is the only one who is immune to pipe dreams. For 10 points, name this denizen of Harry Hope's bar in *The Iceman Cometh*.

ANSWER: Larry Slade [accept either name]

10. A poem from Joseph Brodsky's *To Urania* which is named after this poem is subtitled "Winter" and dedicated to Derek Walcott. This poem says that the serpent and "the treacherous poison-plant" will both die, and Assyrian spices will proliferate. The speaker of this poem begins by invoking the Muses of Sicily and noting that he is about to turn to loftier matters, as opposed to the "coppice or lowly tamarisk." At the end of this poem, the poet praises himself, claiming to be able to out-sing (*) Orpheus, Calliope, and Pan. Much of this poem is addressed to a "great progeny of Jove" whose identity is mysterious. This poem praises Asinius Pollio and predicts the beginning of a new golden age, but most famously prophesies the birth of a messianic figure who has often been identified with Christ by later commentators. For 10 points, name this member of Virgil's *Eclogues*.

ANSWER: "Eclogue IV" [or "Bucolic IV"; accept anything indicating it's the 4th poem from the *Eclogues*]

11. **This character has a conversation with a senator who defends materialism and declares that “God is for the masses.” Ignoring the protestations of many, this character travels to an area controlled by a dangerous band of criminals led by Cravatte, and he astonishes everyone when he returns with some of the treasure which the bandits had earlier stolen. This character discusses the ethics of revolution with a despised revolutionary who he visits on his (*) deathbed.** He is given an allowance of 3000 francs for carriage and travel expenses, but spends it on charity, which is one of the reasons he is nicknamed Monseigneur Bienvenu. Perhaps his most charitable act is saving the protagonist from the police after the protagonist steals his silverware. For 10 points, name this Bishop of Digne who gives a pair of silver candlesticks to Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*.

ANSWER: Bishop Charles Myriel [accept either name; accept Monseigneur Bienvenu before mentioned]

12. **One stanza of this poem describes “dead sons from the war” and “daughters whom life had crushed” as well as “their children fatherless, crying.” One character in this poem is a major who “had talked with venerable men of the revolution,” while another is a fiddler who “played with life all his ninety years, braving the sleet with bared breast.” That character babbles “of the horse-races of long ago at Clary’s Grove” and “of what Abe Lincoln said one time at Springfield.” Two stanzas of this poem list the manners of (*) death of various characters, including one who “was brought to her little space by Ella and Kate and Mag.” It begins by asking “Where are Elmer, Herman, Bert, Tom and Charley?” and responding that “all, all are sleeping on” the title location.** For 10 points, name this poem which introduces Edgar Lee Masters’ *Spoon River Anthology*.

ANSWER: “The Hill”

13. **Many people have interpreted Dostoevsky’s short story “The Crocodile” as satirizing the writing of this novel. In this novel, the medical student Lopukhov enters into a marriage of convenience with a woman who later marries her true love, who shares his name with Turgenev’s character Kirsanov. That woman, Vera Pavlovna, is aided by the “extraordinary man” (*) Rakhmetov, and imagines a socialist utopia in her so-called “fourth dream.” That dream’s imagery of the Crystal Palace is referenced by Dostoevsky’s Underground Man. The fourth chapter of Nabokov’s *The Gift* is a biography of this novel’s author. A 1902 pamphlet by Lenin is named after this novel.** For 10 points, name this novel by Nikolai Chernyshevsky.

ANSWER: What Is to Be Done? [or Chto delat’?]

14. **This author wrote about Magin traveling to Karsovy to search for his brother in the short story “In a Northern Country.” She punningly riffed on the title phrase of her short story “A Mown Lawn,” and wrote about a fickle man in “Sketches for a Life of Wassilly.” An unnamed narrator tries to organize her memories of a failed love affair into a novel in this author’s only novel, *The End of the Story*. Before marrying Siri Hustvedt, Paul (*) Auster was married to this author. She is also known for her translations of French novels, including *Swann’s Way* and *Madame Bovary*, but she is best known for her short stories, collections of which include *Break It Down*, *Samuel Johnson Is Indignant*, and *Varieties of Disturbance*.** For 10 points, name this American author whose *Collected Stories* were published in 2009, and who shares her surname with the author of “Life in the Iron Mills.”

ANSWER: Lydia Davis

15. **Description acceptable.** **At the end of one chapter, a character ominously says that she senses that someone or something is hiding in this building, and has been for four years. That character later visits this building with a character who discovers an old man lying in bed who says he has come to this location to die. This building is built by twenty slaves working in the mud under the direction of a (*) French architect. Henry is killed when it is burned down by Clytie, and Jim Bond is the only survivor. This building is owned by a man who marries Ellen and whose daughter Judith nearly marries her half-brother Charles Bon. This building is visited by Rosa Coldfield and Quentin Compson, who tells his Harvard roommate Shreve McCannon about it.** For 10 points, name this building built on a certain character’s “Hundred” in *Absalom, Absalom!*

ANSWER: Thomas Sutpen’s mansion [accept anything indicating it’s Thomas Sutpen’s house; prompt on Sutpen’s Hundred or any other answer indicating just Thomas Sutpen’s land or property]

16. The author of this essay is apprehensive of a framed verse beginning “God bless the corners of this house” because it is the kind of ironic detail that would be mentioned in the news if a violent crime ever took place in the house. This essay includes an excerpt from a psychiatric report about an attack of vertigo and nausea suffered by the author. The author of this essay recalls sitting on the floor in a recording studio while three members of The (*) Doors are waiting for Jim Morrison to arrive. This essay chronicles Huey Newton’s arrest for the murder of John Frey, and its author interviews Linda Kasabian, one of the key witnesses in the Tate-LaBianca murder trial. A volume collecting the nonfiction of this essay’s author gets its title from its opening line, “We tell ourselves stories in order to live.” For 10 points, name this Joan Didion essay named for a Beatles album.
ANSWER: “The White Album”

17. Undoubtedly the most famous Canadian example of this genre is about atomic bomb testing in Polynesia; that work is Laurence Hyde’s *Southern Cross*. One work in this genre is about a slave trader who kills an African and steals his drum, and is called *Madman’s Drum*. Another work in this genre follows a generic man’s trip through a city, after which he enters a forest and dies, whereupon his soul leaves his body and stomps on his heart. The pioneers of this genre included Otto (*) Nückel and the author of *The Idea* and *Passionate Journey*, Frans Masereel. This genre was introduced to America by the author of such works as *Wild Pilgrimage* and *Gods’ Man*, Lynd Ward. For 10 points, name this genre of proto-graphic novels with no text, which was popular among the German Expressionists.
ANSWER: wordless novels [or woodcut novels; or Geschichte ohne Worte; prompt on “woodcuts” or “graphic novels”]

18. After this character dies, a strong wind passes through, prompting another character to remark that God “had to get her out of the way before he bring the fire.” In another work, the undertaker West visits her to find out whether his wife is in heaven, and Sterling visits her instead of visiting Prophet Samuel. This character’s housekeeper, who is also her disciple, is Black Mary, the sister of Caesar (*) Wilkes. The plot of another play, whose protagonist is the politician Harmond Wilkes, revolves around the planned demolition of her house at 1839 Wylie. Characters she takes into her home include Solly Two Kings and Citizen Barlow. She apparently lives to be more than 300 years old, since she is said to be 285 years old in *Gem of the Ocean*. For 10 points, name this “washer of souls” who is a recurring character in the Pittsburgh Cycle of August Wilson.
ANSWER: Aunt Ester

19. Each stanza of one of this man’s early poems ends with the refrain “Through two points only one straight line can pass.” His first work to be translated into English was the novel *Not of This Time, Not of This Place*. In a long autobiographical poem by this author, the speaker is an old man who reflects on his life, comparing it to the travels of Benjamin of Tudela. A poem which notes that “I wasn’t one of the six million who died in the (*) Shoah” also contains a line which provides the title of his collection *Open Closed Open*, and his other collections in English include *Exile at Home* and a volume of selected poems translated by Ted Hughes. Some of poems refer to a friend of his who died in the Holocaust as “little Ruth.” An early poem by him is named after Yehuda Ha-Levi, who shares his first name. For 10 points, name this 20th-century Israeli poet.
ANSWER: Yehuda Amichai [or Ludwig Pfeuffer]

20. According to Boswell, Samuel Johnson said that this was the only book which would impel him to get out of bed two hours earlier than he wanted to. The extensive introductory material of this work includes a ten-part poem called “The Argument of the Frontispiece” and a warning “To the Reader Who Employs His Leisure Ill.” In a poem at the beginning of this work, the author says that of “all my joys,” there are “none so sweet as” the title concept, even though “all my griefs are (*) jolly” compared to the title concept. This work, which is written in the form of a medical textbook divided into three partitions, was published under the pseudonym of Democritus Junior. For 10 points, name this lengthy and digressive examination of the title emotion, written by Robert Burton.
ANSWER: *The Anatomy of Melancholy*

21. One of this poet's works contains a faux-Latin poem attributed to Ovid called "Kettelopotomachia" or "battle of the kettle and the pot." In another poem, he wrote that "Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide, in the strife of Truth with Falsehood, for the good or evil side." In a poem inspired by the death of his daughter Blanche, he described telling his daughter Mabel that the Lord is responsible for making snow fall. This author of "The Present (*) Crisis" and "The First Snowfall" also wrote a work whose title character, Hosea, is contrasted with Birdofredum Sawin. The year 1848 saw the publication of his most important long works, including *The Vision of Sir Launfal*, *The Biglow Papers*, and a work which satirized Margaret Fuller and other literary figures of the age. For 10 points, name this author of *A Fable for Critics*.

ANSWER: James Russell Lowell [prompt for first name on just Lowell]