

Classical Literature Packet of Possibly Literary Classics Things? Maybe? Will I Ever Finish It?

1. As this play opens, one character addresses her lamp and scratches on the door of a woman who claims that her husband from Salamis had been “rowing” her all night. At one point in this play, a young man attempts to enter a girl’s house to have sex, but is promptly seized and dragged off by three consecutively uglier old women. At the end of this play, the chorus sings of a banquet including a dish described by a 171 letter long word. The protagonist’s husband Blepyrus and his friend Chremes rebuff a disgruntled citizen in this play who does not wish to give up his property to a communal store. The title characters of this work follow the housewife Praxagora and disguise themselves as a group of shoemakers in a plot to take over Athens for themselves. For 10 points, name this Aristophanes play, in which several disgruntled housewives institute communal property and sex laws after taking over Athens.

ANSWER: *The Assemblywomen* [or *The Ecclesiazusae* or A *Parliament of Women* or *Women in Power*; accept congress for “Assembly” or “Power” or “Parliament”]

2. Allen Ginsberg wrote a poem in this verse form in which the speaker describes having homosexual relations with a “Cherub, thin-legged Southern boy” and “Blond curl’d clear eyed gardener”. Catullus wrote only two poems in this verse form, which lament his idleness in allowing Lesbia to make off with “three hundred” other lovers. A fragmentary poem in this form describes an apple grove “shadowed with roses” and asks Kypris to accept an offering of “nectar lavishly mingled with joys”. This form consists of three lines of hendecasyllables, followed by a fourth line consisting of a dactyl and a trochee called an Adonic. A poem in this verse form notes how some people list “an army of horsemen”, “foot-soldiers”, and “a fleet” as the “fairest thing[s] on the dark earth” before the speaker declares, “I say it is whatever one loves”; that poem is addressed to Anactoria. Another poem in this verse form describes a goddess brought to Earth in a chariot pulled by doves and implores her to “be my ally”. For 10 points, name this poetic verse form named for the author of “Hymn to Aphrodite”, a famous poetess from Lesbos.

ANSWER: Sapphic stanzas

3. A short poem in this collection includes the names of Penelope, Dido, Cadmus, and Remus, forcing the reader to sound out the first two letters of each name and say the verb “pedicare”. A notable poem in this collection suggests that the events of the Odyssey and Iliad were brought about by a need for sex, and puns that Odysseus took the moly to “mollify” his enormous penis and halt the affections of Calypso and Circe. The first definitive translation of this collection, which was published by Leonard Smithers and Richard Burton in 1890, included an extensive gloss listing Latin synonyms and euphemisms for the male and female sexual organs. The first poem in this collection claims it contains songs “fit for the garden and not the book” in reference to the gardens its namesake was assigned to protect. The poems included in this collection were originally carved onto statues of a certain huge-penis fertility god made of wood, mud and cowrie shells. For 10 points, name this collection of various joking poems addressed to a minor phallic Greek god, written by several different Latin authors under the patronage of Maecenas.

ANSWER: Priapeia

4. A poem about the infidelity of this woman ends with the exclamation “No charms can ever safely be trusted!” A poem describing this woman’s birthday opens with the Muses clapping their hands three times for good luck and imagines the speaker dancing and drinking wine with her at night. In one poem, the speaker notes how Lycinna first “initiated his spirit” as a young man and warns this woman not to curse her out of “headlong anger”. An angry poem about this woman claims, “she is not like the fickle girls you have collected” and berates Gallus for lusting after her. Rivals for this woman’s affections include Bassus and Ponticus. In the first poem about this woman, the speaker notes that he was “untouched by love” until she had first “trapped him with her eyes”. For 10 points, name this pseudonymous woman, the subject of several elegies by Sextus Propertius collected in a namesake “Monobiblos”.

ANSWER: Cynthia

5. The title character of this play is the subject of Ambrose Philips’ *The Distrest Mother*. Throughout this play, the chorus mockingly chimes in with misogynistic statements like “There’s a touch of jealousy in the female psyche. It’s inclined to be rather tart where polygamy enters.” and “That’s quite enough from a female dealing with men. I’d say your righteousness had gone the limit.” As this play opens, the protagonist

delivers a monologue expressing her misfortunes while stubbornly clinging to an altar in the temple of Thetis. In this play, Hermione gives a speech asserting that the protagonist has used drugs to “make me unlovely to my husband” and “wither my womb and leave it good for nothing” in an attempt to usurp her throne. The title character of this play is given as a slave to Neoptolemus after her son Astanayax is thrown off the Trojan walls and Achilles kills her husband. For 10 points, name this tragedy by Euripides titled after the unfortunate wife of Hector.

ANSWER: Andromache [accept Racine’s Andromaque on the first clue]

6. Two answers required. One of these two men is addressed as “the father of hunger” in a poem promising to fuck him with “an insidious cock” for wanting to have sex with the author’s past, present, and future lovers. One poem about one of these two men describes him as having “an ass purer than a salt cellar that does not shit ten times a year” and implores him to stop begging for a hundred sesterces because he has “neither slaves nor money”. A poem addressed to one of these men entrusts him with the protection of the speaker’s young male lover, although the speaker admits that his “penis is dangerous to both good and bad boys”. These two men are addressed with the appositives *pathice* and *cinaede* in a poem condemning their view of its author as a poltroon who writes “delicate verses”; that poem opens with the speaker claiming he “will sodomize and facefuck” these two men. For 10 points, name these two prominent critics addressed in the very awesome Catullus 16.

ANSWER: Furius and Aurelius

7. One poem in this collection describes how Rupilius Rex drenches the Greek Persius with insults “squeezed from the vineyard” during a dispute moderated by Brutus. In one section of this collection, the speaker claims “I was once a fig tree’s trunk” in the garden of his patron and describes scaring off the witches Sagana and Canidia with a thunderous fart. The first poem in this collection tells of a miser named Ummidius who wastes his life counting his money before being split in half with an axe by a freedwoman, condemns people for being greedy, and advocates the limiting of desires. The last poem in this collection details its author’s attempts to improve on the work of Lucilius, whose “verses ran on stumbling legs”. For 10 points, name this collection of poems mocking the freedmen of Rome and advocating Epicurean moderation, written by a Roman author of collections of *Odes* and *Epodes*.

ANSWER: Horace’s Satires [or Sermones]

8. One poem of this type describes a portrait of Thaumareta that is so lifelike that it causes the house’s watchdog to wag its tail whenever it sees it. In another poem of this type, the speaker recalls weaving a robe for the “incense-scented shrine Lakinian shrine” of Hera with her mother Theuphilis. One poem of this type describes the dedication of Menitas’ bow to Serapis, while a wooden club given as a sacrifice by Archinus the Cretan is the speaker of another. The Milan Papyrus includes several of these poems written by Posidippus of Pella. The speaker of a poem of this type implores the earth to “lie lightly on her, as she lay on you” and was written in honor of the deceased Erotion. Anecdotes about the Mausoleum of Augustus, the paleness of Charinus, and the chilling Doctor Symmachus were collected in a set of twelve books of these poems written by a Roman author from Hispania. For 10 points, name these brief and satirical poetic statements, several of which were written by Nossis, Callimachus, and Martial.

ANSWER: epigrams

9. In *Curculio*, an unnamed character with this profession interjects when Cappadox asks Palinurus to interpret one of his dreams and offers to do it himself. At the end of one play, a character with this profession threatens to castrate Pyrgopolinices with a knife while several servants are flogging him. One character with this profession claims to employ fake things like “cicilendrum” and “halitosis” when doing his job; that character is referred to as a “useless idiot” by Ballio, who hired him for his birthday. In Act III of *The Grouch*, Knemon throws a person with this profession named Sikon out of his house after he asks to borrow a pot, salt, and a cleaver. Cario in *Miles Gloriosus* has this profession, and a real-life person with this profession may have used a book attributed to “Caelius Apicius”. A Greek person of this profession prepared the *deipnon* and was known as a *mageiros*, while the Latin word *coquus* refers to a person with this profession. For 10 points, name this profession, a member of which would have prepared a *cena*.

ANSWER: chefs [or cooks or equivalent or coquus or mageiros before mention]

10. One character in this work asks another to recall Nestor's advice to his son Antilochus on driving a chariot at the funeral games of Patroclus following that man's assertion that he is better than either Metrodoros of Lampsacos or Stesimbrotos of Thrace at his art. Another character in this work uses the analogy of a string of rings attached to the stone of Heraclea to show how speaking excellently is not an art, but an inspiration. That character then compares poets to honeybees to show how they acquire their performative ability from the Muses, and how the art of poetry recital arises from "divine dispensation". The title character of this dialogue had recently won a poetry contest at the feast of Asclepius in Epidaurus. For 10 points, name this Platonic dialogue in which the title poet from Ephesus asserts that he is the most knowledgeable about the works of Homer.

ANSWER: Ion

11. A filthy old woman sets an ugly dog on this character after he uses a candlestick to beat a landlord who had earlier shattered a wine pot over his head. This character's servant Corax complains about carrying his bag and protests by farting next to him as he walks. During a large storm, this character whips out a piece of parchment and starts writing verse while his companions cling to each other to avoid drowning. This character tells a story about how he was nearly tricked into buying an Asturian horse for a boy from Pergamon, but gets out of it by having sex with him. The narrator first encounters this character in an art gallery, where this character recites an awful poem about the fall of Troy and is subsequently pelted with stones by angry visitors. This character relates the story of the Widow of Ephesus. For 10 points, name this really terrible poet who accompanies Encolpius, Giton, and Ascyltos on their adventures in the *Satyricon*.

ANSWER: Eumolpus

12. In his *Epitaph on Bion*, Moschus implores these animals to spread the word of his death to "the Sicilian streams of Arethusa". Archilochus attacked the father of his lover Neobule in a fable about a fox and one of these non-hedgehog animals. In Book II of the *Silvae*, Statius describes the death and funeral of one of these animals that belonged to Atedius Melior. In one play, two men turn into these animals by chewing on a magical root. Catullus 2 and 3 details the life and death of one of these animals called a *passer* given as a gift to Lesbia. In a play titled after these animals, Iris is hunted down and interrogated by Pisthetaerus, who helps found a city in the sky that blockades offerings to the gods. For 10 points, name these animals, which title an Aristophanes play that features the creation of Cloudcuckooland.

ANSWER: birds [or eagles or Hoopoe or sparrows or parrots or nightingales before "titled after"]

13. One section of this poem chastises Myrrha for "hiding her face behind bark" and Philoctetes for not cutting off his festering foot and argues that nobody should swim against the stream of passion. At this poem's opening, the speaker remarks that Cupid is offended by its title and has declared war on him. The speaker of this poem advocates admiring two girls at once so as not to become overwhelmed, comparing it to the lessened grief felt by a mother who loses one of her many sons rather than her only son. At this poem's end, the speaker remarks that its addressee who is "healed by [his] song" will "say holy prayers to the shrine of the poet" in reference to an earlier work that ends with the speaker telling the addressee to "inscribe his spoils with the phrase 'Ovid was my master.'" This poem was published in 2 CE as an addendum to another three book long work that may have contributed to its author's exile to Tomis. For 10 points, name 814-line poem of break-up advice issued as a follow-up to the *Ars Amatoria*, a work by Ovid.

ANSWER: Remedia Amoris [or Love's Remedy or The Cure for Love]

14. In a work by this writer, Simon convinces Tychiades that sponging is the greatest art because it achieves practical results. In one work, this writer attacked a wig-wearing mystic who died of leg gangrene after swindling money from people who wished to hear prophecies from the snake god Glycon. He related anecdotes about his teacher wittily insulting other men in public in a work written on the death of that man, a Cynic philosopher who starved himself to death. This man imagined Zeus setting Prometheus free and instructing Hermes to turn Io into Isis in a work consisting of mocking conversations between Greek deities. In one of this man's works, he describes sights like a river of wine filled with fish and a battle between the forces of the Moon and Sun after passing through the Pillars of Hercules on a ship. For 10 points, name this student of Demonax, the Assyrian Greek author of *The Dialogues of the Gods* and *The True History*.

ANSWER: Lucian of Samosata

15. In one poem, a shepherd named Damoetas sings of this mythological figure's actions during a singing contest with Daphnis. In another poem, this figure laments "Mother! Why was I born without gills?" and wishes that someone in a ship would come and teach him to swim so that he can be with his lover; that Idyll about this figure was written as advice for the poet's lovesick friend Nicias of Miletus. A longer poetic work about this figure includes a vivid description of his lonely "three cornered isle" and differs from Ovid's depiction of this figure in that he consummates his love. That 63 stanza work was published in 1627 and opens with a dedication to the Count of Niebla. In a scene from another work, a man escapes this figure's clutches by tying himself to the bottom of a sheep after driving a heated stake through this figure's eye. For 10 points, name this inhabitant of Sicily and subject of poetic works by Theocritus and Gongora, a Cyclops who crushed Acis with a boulder and fell in love with Galatea.

ANSWER: Polyphemus

16. In one poem, Catullus exclaims, "Who lives more happily than I!" when describing Lesbia's return as more beloved than this substance. In an ode written for Hieron of Syracuse, Pindar claims that water and this substance are supreme, but that neither is better than victorious poetic song. Valerius Maximus' *Memorable Deeds and Sayings* relates an incident in which Hiero II sent this substance in the form of a statue of Victoria to Rome after their destruction at Lake Trasimene because they could not accept it outright. According to Hesiod, Cronus ruled the earth during a peaceful time named for this substance, which was the first of his Five Ages of Man. An old man who wishes to marry off his daughter Phaedria to Megadorus finds a buried container of this substance hidden by his Lar Familiaris in another play. For 10 points, name this substance, a pot of which titles an incomplete play by Plautus.

ANSWER: gold

17. At the beginning of this work, the narrator notices that its central action happened on October 13th, but that he doesn't know the specific time because clocks are less reliable than philosophers. In this work, the companions of Agatho lament the loss of "eternal Saturnalia". The central figure of this work dies while watching several comedians and exclaiming "Oh dear! I think I have shit myself!" At the very end of this work, its subject's predecessor shows up and hands him over to Menander as a law clerk. Augustus testifies against the central figure of this work, who dies after Apollo convinces Clotho and Lachesis to end his life. This work's subject is initially condemned by Aeacus to roll dice from a bottomless box for the rest of time and chase them around when they slip out of his fingers. For 10 points, name this satiric work about the death and judgment of a certain Roman emperor, attributed to Seneca the Younger.

ANSWER: Pumpkinification of Claudius [or Apocolocyntosis or whatever]

18. One part of this work uses the example of a man who suffers because he sees "the footprint of a smile" in his lover's face when she looks at another man during an elaborate banquet to argue that love should be avoided at all costs. Niccolo de Niccoli created the only surviving manuscript of this work, which was copied from the version of its initial discoverer Poggio Bracciolini. In Book 3 of this work, its author argues that people like Tantalus and Sisyphus only suffer allegorically because the underworld does not exist. An important metaphor in this work describes a healer who covers the rim of a cup of wormwood with honey so that a small child will not notice the bitterness of the medicine, which represents its author's philosophy. This work is dedicated to its author's patron Gaius Memmius. One section of this work describes "a deflection in space at an uncertain time in an uncertain place" that causes us to have free will, which it calls *clinamen*. For 10 points, name this extensive Epicurean poem written in six books, the only known work of Lucretius.

ANSWER: De Rerum Natura [or On the Nature of Things]

19. The ending of this poem describes being "locked in a shackle as a hard as iron" and blames the title figures for causing all the deaths in the Trojan War. The speaker of this poem describes a particular figure that wants to "hear everything, know everything, [and] go everywhere" and can only be silenced by knocking its teeth out with a stone. A certain kind of the title figures is described as "reposing on the shit-pile, growing fat", while another kind "misses nothing" and "considers... that good is bad and bad is good"; the speaker claims that those figures are born from pigs and foxes. The only redeeming kind of the title figures is described as "enveloped by Grace", is extolled for being able to "manage a thriving household", and is said to come from BEES! Opening with the line "from the start, the gods made [the title figures] different", for 10 points, name this very, very, very misogynistic poem about the origins of a certain sex, written by Semonides of Amorgos.

ANSWER: Women [or Types of Women]

20. At one point, a member of this family recalls an incident where a man playing ball in the street washes his hands and dries them in the hair of a young boy. When two members of this family visit the city in a litter, they witness a man injured by an airborne pig and a mother and her two children burn to death in an apartment fire. After this family's carriage gets stuck in a ditch, they enter an inn where a soldier tells them a story about an innkeeper who kills a man named Aulus and buries him in manure. While playing in a garden, a mischievous member of this family pushes a statue into a fishpond, pissing off this family's slave Davus. This family is first introduced in a story where two girls read and write Latin under a tree. This family includes the loutish drunk Uncle Titus, the senator Gaius, his wife Aurelia, and their two children Marcus and Cornelia. For 10 points, name this fictional family, whose various adventures are recounted in the first two books of the *Ecce Romani* series.

ANSWER: the Cornelii [or family from *Ecce Romani* before mention]