

Gorilla Literature Singles 2014
Packet by Evan Adams

21 Tossups

1. In one story from this collection, the narrator abandons his girlfriend Michelle at an abortion clinic and becomes sexually attracted to a man he randomly follows to a laundromat. The line “And you, you ridiculous people, you expect me to help you?” ends its first story, in which the narrator wanders around a car accident scene with an unscathed baby after the family he is hitchhiking with gets into a serious accident. The protagonist of its most famous story wanders into a graveyard during a snowstorm and sees angels descending, only to realize that he is actually in a drive-in movie theater. That story opens with the protagonist and the orderly Georgie working at a hospital that admits a man with a knife stuck through his one good eye. This collection, which contains “Dirty Wedding,” “Car Crash While Hitchhiking,” and (*) “Emergency,” takes its name from the *Velvet Underground* song “Heroin” and consists of eleven interrelated stories centering on an unnamed drug addict known as Fuckhead. For 10 points, name this short story collection by *Tree of Smoke* author Dennis Johnson.

ANSWER: *Jesus’ Son*

2. **Description acceptable.** One character in this part of a longer work explains the ancient custom of punishing patricide by placing someone in a sack with a cock, a monkey, and a serpent and then throwing them into the sea. During this section, the ticking of one character’s pocket watch accentuates his description of a vision of a great clock that ceaselessly ticks the words: ever, never, ever, never. James Thrane conclusively showed that this piece draws heavily from a 17th century Italian pamphlet by Giavanni Pinamonti, while Don Gifford and others have shown that its narrative structure is based on Ignatius’s spiritual exercises. Just after this passage, the protagonist of the novel in which it appears vomits painfully when he awakens from a dream in which he is menaced by six goat-like creatures. This passage, which is set over a period of three days during a (*) retreat at Belvedere College, causes that protagonist to regret leaving foul letters where he knew innocent girls would find them. This passage opens with a discussion of Satan’s “non serviam” and includes an explanation of the cruel worm’s “triple sting,” the three psychological ways in which a sinner will suffer. For 10 points, name this monologue that causes Stephen Dedalus to confess his sins and temporarily enter a life of extreme spirituality.

ANSWER: Father Arnall’s hell sermon from *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* [accept any answers indicating it’s a sermon from *Portrait* or that it’s a sermon delivered by Arnall]

3. In one novel, the spiritualistic medium Patrick Seton commits this crime against Dr. Lyte, a doctor who had caused a woman’s death during an abortion. In *Territorial Rights*, Robert Leaver commits this crime against his former lover Mark Curran. In another novel, a fraudulent German psychoanalyst named Hildegard Wolff becomes the target of this crime after two men come into her office and both pretend to be Lord Lucan. This crime appears in *The Bachelors*, *Aiding and Abetting*, and *Loitering with Intent*, in which Fleur Talbot suspects that Sir Quentin Oliver founded The Autobiographical Association to facilitate this crime. Nancy Hawkins befriends the Polish dressmaker Wanda, who commits suicide after becoming the victim of this crime in (*) *A Far Cry From Kensington*. The housekeeper Mabel Pettigrew successfully commits this crime against LisaBrooke but fails to do so against Godfrey Colston in *Memento Mori*. For 10 points, name this crime which is committed in nearly every Muriel Spark novel and which is successfully thwarted in “A Scandal in Bohemia” and “The Purloined Letter.”

ANSWER: blackmail [or extortion]

4. In this novel's forward its author claims it would have been published earlier in the US if not for an overeager publisher who wanted its protagonist changed into a "demented violinist." That is deeply affected by a poster of a man hanging from a skyscraper ledge, which is probably a still from Harold Lloyd's 1923 film *Safety Last*. That poster is found at Veritas Studios, where a film producer who was the protagonist's former mentor asks him to appear in a movie. The protagonist's father Ivan is a children's book writer who sends his son off to the promoter Valentinov. Its protagonist meets his wife at a German health resort and asks her to marry him before his showdown with (*) Turati in Berlin. In this novel's culminating revelation, its protagonist realizes that every life event he has had since his nervous breakdown echoes a similar event from his childhood, and that only by committing suicide he can break the pattern. That central motif was strongly informed by its author's fondness for creating and solving chess puzzles. For 10 points, name this novel about a chess master who kills himself, a work of Vladimir Nabokov.

ANSWER: *The Defense* [or *Luzhin's Defense*]

5. In a chapter from *Understanding Fiction*, Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren describe this figure as someone who refuses to yield to "spontaneous human emotion" as a defense against the "brute chaos of the world." Earl Rovit and Gerry Brenner divided this figure into a student and an instructor, labelling these people the "tyro" and the "tutor." This figure's existence was first posited in a critical book by Philip Young and was soon adapted in a biography by Carlos Baker. Traits associated with this figure include insomnia, an understanding that death is the end of existence which has been termed the (*) "nada" principle, and most importantly grace under pressure. Characters that have been associated with the exemplar aspect of this figure include Count Mippipopolous and Montoya, which characters that have been associated with the apprentice aspect include Manolin and Jake Barnes. For 10 points, name this figure, a seminal construct from Hemingway studies who lives his or her life according to a certain set of precepts.

ANSWER: Hemingway code hero [or Hemingway hero]

6. A Max Beerbohm essay titled after this character describes how his friend Robert Coates was tricked into portraying him by a woman he had played an earlier prank on. In William Inge's *Bus Stop*, Dr. Lyman portrays him in an impromptu performance Elma puts on while the passengers are stranded in the restaurant. Nicholas Nickleby makes his debut with Vincent Crummles' troupe by playing this character. This character says that "love goes toward love, as schoolboys from their books, but love from love, toward school with heavy looks." He compares his lips to (*) "two blushing pilgrims, [that] ready stand to smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss" in a meeting scene in which his dialogue joins with his lover's dialogue to form a sonnet. This character, who describes himself as "fortune's fool," claims that another character "doth teach the torches to burn bright" and wishes "that I were a glove upon that hand, that I might touch that cheek!" For 10 points, name this Shakespeare character whose final lines are "O true apothecary! Thy drugs are quick. — Thus with a kiss I die."

ANSWER: Romeo

7. An enigmatic message written by this character reads "it is night in space. oh well. ♪ [eighth note symbol]." Among his known parents are "a buried time capsule full of set-and-baited mouse traps," "a ray of light that shone through the clouds" and "a Sherman oak". This character determines his career path from a mannequin that "never told him he was too round for this world or that he shouldn't eat the plastic bologna rings." "Rules are jail" is one of a series of rules this character writes on four pages of dot-matrix printer paper. One lyrical passage states that he "wishes to find every last molecular structure on the planet and head-butt it until its electrons pop like bubble wrap." This character has the curious habit of referring to liquids in the plural, such as a "glass of some milks." He was born in 1937 and played college football at DeVry, where he majored in poetry and got a GPA of reddish-gray. He was observed smiling for the first time during a stint with the Memphis Grizzlies. Also seen in uniform for the San Francisco 49ers, he is best known for leading a 42 to 0 upset of the Denver Broncos as the (*) Jacksonville Jaguars's 400-pound, 5-foot, indestructible quarterback. For 10 points, name this Jon Bois-created character from *Breaking Madden*.

ANSWER: CLARENCE BEEFTANK [or BEEFT4NK]

8. One character comforts a worried member of this family by telling her “The world owes all its onward impulses to men ill at ease. The happy man inevitably confines himself within ancient limits.” Another woman in this family befriends a young Ned Higgins, the gingerbread addicted first customer at her store. This family’s descent is tracked by a line of chickens that were once the size of turkeys but that have become scrawny and weak. One of this family’s ancestors, Alice, was a talented harpsichordist whose notes are supposedly still heard after her death in a hypnosis accident. Another ancestor of the family was the subject of the invective (*) “God will give him blood to drink!” One member of this family spends thirty years in prison for killing his own uncle after being framed by another scion of this family named Judge Jaffrey. The young Phoebe’s relationship with the daguerreotypist Holgrave continues this family’s long connection to the Maule family, which began when Matthew Maule placed a curse on it after having the title real estate stolen by a Colonel’s witchcraft allegation. For 10 points, name this family at the center of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The House of the Seven Gables*.
ANSWER: Pyncheon family

9. One of this man’s poems is titled after a character who will “hear no more the lowing of the calves on the warm hillside” or “see the brown mice bob round and round the oatmeal chest.” That poem is set at a “leafy island where flapping herons wake the drowsy water rats” and where hidden fairy vats are “full of berries and of the reddest stolen cherries.” That poem by this man includes a refrain telling a “human child” to come away because “the world’s more full of weeping than you can understand.” The narrator of a second poem notes that (*) “the years to come seemed waste of breath, a waste of breath the years behind.” That narrator says “no likely end could bring them loss or leave them happier than before” after claiming “those that I fight I do not hate those that I guard I do not love.” That poem by this man concerns a man driven to the clouds by “a lonely impulse of delight.” For 10 points, name this poet of “The Stolen Child” who wrote “I know that I shall meet my fate somewhere among the clouds above” in his poem an “An Irish Airman Foresees His Death.”
ANSWER: William Butler Yeats

10. The narrator of this poem has a dream or vision in which he sees “every fleck of russet showing clear.” That narrator, who recognizes that “the essence of winter sleep is on the night,” closes the poem by noting that “were he not gone, the woodchuck” could answer a question that he has. A chunk of this poem is devoted to a dream brought on after its narrator “cannot rub the strangeness from my sight” after looking at the world through the lens of a (*) pane of ice “skimmed this morning from the drinking trough and held against the world of hoary grass.” Its narrator, who hears a rumbling sound from the cellar bin and has an ache in his “instep arch,” announces that “I have had too much of [the title activity]: I am overtired.” This poem opens with the image of a “barrel that I didn’t fill” beside a “long two-pointed ladder sticking through a tree toward heaven still.” For 10 points, name this Robert Frost poem whose narrator describes his weariness after the “great harvest” of “ten thousand fruit to touch, cherish in hand, lift down, and not let fall.”
ANSWER: “After Apple-picking”

11. One of this man’s poems is a dialogue in which Simaetha tells her story to the moon after being abandoned by Delphis. Another of his poems follows the daily lives of the women Gorgo and Praxinoa and ends with them admiring the palace of Ptolemy where they have come to celebrate a festival for Adonis. Those are two of his three “mimes.” He wrote a poem in which Polyphemus cures himself of his unrequited love for Galatea by singing a mournful love song. Another of his poems is narrated by the poet in the guise of Simichidas, who is given a staff by fellow poet Lycidas. That poem, usually titled (*) “Harvest-Home” or “Harvest Feast,” is set on his home island of Kos. This poet, who wrote about the death of Daphnis in a poem narrated by and sometimes titled for Thyrsis, set many of his poems in the country side of Sicily. For 10 points, name this poet whose bucolics were published as the *Idylls*, a third century BC Greek thought of as the inventor of pastoral poetry.
ANSWER: Theocritus

12. At the end of his career this author switched to writing poems, such as his epic poem built around the Till Eulenspiegel story. This man was inspired by his time as a juror in an infanticide trial to write a play about a peasant impregnated by employer and then raped by a machinist. The two plots of another of his plays are connected only by the fact the characters in one live above the characters of another in an apartment building. In that play, Pauline steals a sickly child from a drug addict in a desperate ploy to keep the infant she bought from Mrs. John. This author of *Rose Bernd* wrote a play in which (*) Baumert is forced by his poverty to kill and cook his pet dog. In that play, the harsh policies of Herr Dreissiger cause the returning soldier Moritz Jaeger to lead members of the title profession in a riot against their employer. For 10 points, name this German playwright of *The Rats* and *The Weavers*.

ANSWER: Gerhart Hauptmann

13. One speaker in this poem commands “O plunge your hands in water, plunge them in up to the wrist; stare, stare in the basin and wonder what you’ve missed.” Its narrator describes the crowds he encounters as “fields of harvest wheat.” The twelfth of this poem’s fifteen quatrains invokes a nursery rhyme locale where “beggars raffle the banknotes and the Giant is enchanting to Jack.” One speaker discusses a time when “the ocean is folded and hung up to dry and the seven stars go squawking like geese about the sky.” This poem, which ends by noting that “the deep river ran on,” takes the form of a dialogue between a man and the (*) “clock in the city,” which begin to whirr and chime as he speaks. The narrator of this poem hears a lover declare “I’ll love you, dear, I’ll love you till China and Africa meet” after doing the title action “down Bristol Street.” For 10 points, name this poem by W.H. Auden with an ambulatory narrator.

ANSWER: “As I Walked Out One Evening”

14. One subplot in this novel rests on the fact that Pepsi-Cola is a perfect anagram for Episcopal. One story told in this novel concerns a man who hired substitutes for both the Union Army and the Confederate Army during the Civil War, only to have those substitutes kill each other at Antietam. Its protagonist, who is obsessed with watching documentaries about fish on PBS, opens the novel hospitalized after being run over by his own car as he was attempting to hotwire it. Another of this novel’s major plots concerns the elaborate modern sculpture Cyclone Seven, which sparks the “Save Spot!” movement when its sculptor secures its injunction preventing a trapped dog from being freed from it. Its protagonist thinks that the famous director Jonathan Livingston Siegal’s blockbuster *The Blood in the Red White and Blue* ripped off his play *Once at Antietam*, which is heavily excerpted in this novel. This novel’s protagonist Oscar Crease is wrapped up in many of its dozens of (*) lawsuits, a fact presaged by the opening line “Justice? -- You get justice in the next world, in this world you have the law.” For 10 points, name this fourth novel by William Gaddis.

ANSWER: A *Frolic of His Own*

15. One subplot in this novel concerns a ring given to the king’s lover Madame de Valentinois, which he notices missing and assumes has been re-gifted to the departed Marshal of Brissac. Another diversion from the main plot of this novel occurs with one character’s pages long retelling of the story of Anne Boleyn. Its protagonist ends her life spending half the year in a convent and half the year doing charity work, until she dies young. This novel’s popularity rapidly increased in 2006 when Nicolas Sarkozy suggested it was frivolous to test on it for civil service exams. Its protagonist, who frequently confides in her mother, rejects the (*) Duke of Nemours despite her love for him after the death of his husband. This novel opens as the title character is brought to the court of Henry II of France to try to arrange a marriage. For 10 points, name this historical novel by Madame de La Fayette.

ANSWER: *La Princesse de Clèves* [or *The Princess of Cleves*]

16. One character of this profession cries upon being given a hat, a callback to an incident two years prior when he had lost his hat, torn his coat, and broken his leg while trying to escape. After giving up this profession to run a newspaper and become a politician, Theodore Colville journeys to Europe in William Dean Howells’ *Indian Summer*. The changes in Dion Anthony’s masks are partly caused by his frustrations working at this job for his father’s company, which is now run by Billy Brown. A “little grim harried foreigner” of this profession is tricked into leaving Martinique and held captive for two years by (*) Thomas Sutpen. T.C. Boyle’s novel *The Women* is about the wives of a famous one of these. Another character with this profession is Peter Keating, whose changes to a colleague’s work prompt that man to dynamite the Cortlandt Homes project. For 10 points, name this job held by Thomas Hardy and Howard Roark.

ANSWER: architect

17. Peter Hall's 1967 debut of this play has four of its characters simultaneously light cigars from the same match before drawing back, a choice which has been adopted by most subsequent stagings. This play opens with one character reading a newspaper and arguing with another about which horses are likely winners. Another of its characters recalls the time he and his brother had sex with a pair of women at a bombed out building during the Blitz. In this play's second act, one character prompts an argument by eating a cheese roll another had left out. Its lone female character says "if you take the glass... I'll take you" during a sexually charged argument over a (*) glass of water. This play opens when the philosophy professor Teddy and his wife Ruth return from America in the middle of the night, prompting a power struggle between Teddy and his brothers Lenny and Joey and his father, the retired butcher Max. For 10 points, name this play by Harold Pinter.

ANSWER: Homecoming

18. The setting of this play, which is described in the manner of a real estate listing, is a "16th century posset mill, 25 miles from London," that has been "fully equipped with every aid to modern living." One of its characters declares "I've heard of people getting stuck with a problem, but this is ridiculous," after accidentally gluing some papers to his head. In its first act, the real estate agent Roger Tramplemain arrives at the central house and pretends that he owns it to impress his tax agent companion Vicki. In the climactic scene of its first act, Vicki becomes trapped in a linen closet wearing only her underwear as an Arab sheikh arrives and is attacked by most of the cast. In a callback to a plate of food that the maid Mrs. Clackett has unsuccessfully attempted to eat for the whole act, this play's first act ends with a burglar declaring "When all around is strife and uncertainty, there's nothing like a good old fashioned (*) plate of sardines." The contents of the second and third acts of this play are unknown because director Lloyd Dallas can't get the play past the first act without it disintegrating into chaos. For 10 points, name play within a play which is constantly derailed by mishaps in Michael Frayn's farce *Noises Off*.

ANSWER: Nothing On [prompt on Noises Off]

19. This essay recalls the news item about six girls who attacked another girl on a subway because "she was stepping on their toes." Its author argues in one section that the only two choices that seem to be available are metaphorically equivalent to gangrene and amputation. The first section of this essay ends as the author recalls running away from the scene after being compelled by an unquenchable rage to throw a jug of water at a waitress in a fancy restaurant. Its third section takes place on its author's nineteenth birthday, after he has been called home for the birth of his baby sister. On that day, he attends the funeral of his (*) father, a minister whose bitterness and anger had distanced him from his children. After the funeral, the author relates how a policeman shooting a black soldier at the Hotel Braddock led to the 1943 Harlem race riot. This essay titles a collection that includes the essays "The Harlem Ghetto" and "Everybody's Protest Novel." For 10 points, name this essay by James Baldwin which draws its name from a Richard Wright novel.

ANSWER: "Notes of a Native Son"

20. The narrator of one poem says that this man's "journals assume a household use; we learn to shape from them, where nothing was the language of a race." Gertrude Stein famously planned to write the autobiography of Alice B. Toklas as simply as another man did the autobiography of this man. In a poem, this man christens a mountain "Mont 'dEspoir or Mount Despair," before dying a baby goat bright red with berries "just to see something a little different." That poem is prompted by this character's musings on a recent ocean volcano eruption and ends by reporting that a museum requested his flute, knife, and goatskin trousers. This character believes that he can stop time by halting his water clock in a novel by Michel Tournier. In a Derek Walcott play, the retired calypso performer Jackson Philip is reluctantly persuaded to play this role in a dramatic production put on by Harry Trewe for the guests of the Castaways Guest House. Susan Barton spends a year living with this man and his (*) tongueless companion before he dies on the voyage home to England after being rescued. Elizabeth Bishop wrote about this man "in England," his story is acted out in Walcott's *Pantomime*, and he is a major character in J.M. Coetzee's *Foe*. For 10 points, name this subject of a Daniel Defoe novel.

ANSWER: Robinson Crusoe

21. A ragpicker tells this character that if he could see God for a minute he would ask him “What did you have me in that crappage down there for anyway?” His time searching for pearls on the French Broad River comes to an end when his lover Wanda is killed in rockslide. This character, whose twin brother was stillborn, marries a hill person girl while a student at the University of Tennessee. This character is roped into a scheme to blast tunnels under the town to rob its goods by a character known as the City Mouse who was earlier imprisoned for fucking watermelons. This friend of (*) Gene Harrogate narrowly recovers from typhoid fever and is given a lift by a friendly hitchhiker at the end of the novel in which he appears. That novel consists of his series of interactions with the residents of McAnally Flats, where he lives in a houseboat on the Tennessee River after abandoning his wife and infant son. For 10 points, name this reprobate title character of a Cormac McCarthy novel.

ANSWER: Cornelius Suttree