

20 Tossups

1. A character created by this author flees to a Benedictine abbey at Kanzheim after escaping Prince Hector with the help of a portrait of Hector's supposedly-dead brother, the monk Cyprianus. This author wrote a long story in which an applemonger punishes a student for crashing into her by making him spill ink on Archivist Lindhorst's Arabic manuscripts. In the last of that story's twelve "vigils," his protagonist Anselmus is overjoyed to see a lily grow out of the title object. The protagonist of another of his stories shrieks, (*) "Circle of fire spin round! Spin round!" while holding Clara over a ledge. In *The Life and Opinions of Kater Murr*, this writer introduced his alter ego, the composer Johannes Kreisler. This founder of the Serapion Brethren wrote a horror story in which Nathanael identifies Coppelius as the title magic being. For 10 points, name this German author of popular fairy tales like "The Golden Pot," "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" and "The Sandman."
ANSWER: E[rnst] T[heodor] A[madeus] Hoffmann

2. This poem refers to "hours, days, months" as the "rags of time." The phrase "All states" that appears in its third and final stanza may be a pun for sexual arousal. The speaker of this poem boasts that "All honour's mimic, all wealth alchemy" compared to what he has, and claims that the "Indias of spice and mine" all lay in one place. This poem claims that "the world's contracted thus" that "this bed" is the addressee's center and "these walls" their "sphere." This poem suggests that the addressee "Go tell court-huntsmen that the king will ride" or "call country ants to harvest offices" rather than bother the speaker. This poem rebukes the "busy old fool, unruly sun" for interrupting the time its speaker can spend with his lover. For 10 points, name this aubade by John Donne.
ANSWER: "The Sun Rising"

3. The protagonist of this story declares, "I've got a right to eat this kind of stuff, if I'm willing to carry it" to his empty surroundings while cooking beans and spaghetti, but "[does] not speak again" because his "voice sound[s] strange." Shortly afterward, that protagonist laughs when the coffee he boils according to the instructions of his dead friend Hopkins turns out to be bitter. At the end of this story, the protagonist considers wading into a swamp before deciding it is a "tragic adventure" and there are "plenty of days coming" for that. This story is set in burnt-down woodlands where all the grasshoppers have adapted by turning black. The protagonist of this story carries a bottle full of grasshoppers with him in its (*) second half, which is separated from its first half by an italicized chapter about the hanging of Sam Cardinella. This story concerns a probable victim of shell-shock who copes by catching trout in the backwoods of Michigan. For 10 points, name this final story from *In Our Time*, an Ernest Hemingway story about Nick Adams' fishing trip on the Black.
ANSWER: "Big Two-Hearted River"

4. **Description acceptable.** One of these people scrawled the phrase "Remember me!" inside a William Beckford novel, eliciting the response "Till Lethe quench life's burning stream." Another of these people unsuccessfully tried to kidnap her daughter Allegra from the convent where Allegra later died of typhus. The former of these people wrote a Gothic roman a clef, *Glenarvon*, whose protagonist inspired John Polidori's character of Lord Ruthven. (*) Augusta Leigh was rumored to be one of these people, partly because she named her daughter Medora, after a character in *The Corsair*. They included Teresa Guiccioli, the subject of an unfinished David Lurie opera, and Caroline Lamb, who originated the phrase "mad, bad, and dangerous to know." For 10 points, identify these women who slept with the promiscuous poet of *Don Juan*.
ANSWER: Lord Byron's mistresses [accept equivalents like lover for "mistress"]

5. A literary agent in this novel kills herself by jumping out of a hotel window after falsely reporting a case of child abuse. Its protagonist's mother Camilla dies when her appendicitis is treated by a con man pretending to be a ship's doctor. That con man later tries to pass off a corpse as a mummy and goes by the name Mr. Yak while living in Spain. A playwright in this novel, who tries to get attention by returning from Barbados with his arm wrapped in a fake sleeve, later starts to confuse himself with Gordon, the protagonist of his own failed play. As a child, its protagonist is torn between the spirituality of his Aunt May and the drive for creativity espoused by his preacher father, who subscribes to the Cult of Mithras. Its protagonist, an acquaintance of (*) Otto Pivner and Frank Sinisterra, becomes involved in a criminal conspiracy with the Jesuit critic Basil Valentine and the collector Rectall Brown, who pretends to find the protagonist's paintings in old buildings. Jack Green wrote *Fire the Bastards!* about the failure of 53 critics review and often even read this notoriously difficult 900-page book. For 10 points, name this novel about the art forger Wyatt Gwyon, the masterpiece of William Gaddis.

ANSWER: The *Recognitions*

6. In Enki Bilal's French comic book *Le Sommeil du Monstre*, Nike Hatzfield recalls being victimized by this conflict in his childhood. It's not any part of World War II, but Pascal Croci's graphic novel *Auschwitz* opens with a husband and wife about to be executed for treason during this conflict. In 2012, Italian comic artist Andrea Ragona produced a one-shot comic about an incident from this conflict where a man was beaten to death by members of his own army. During the final storyline from the original volume of the *Mirage Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* comic book, a character with no connection to the main plot is frequently shown watching news about this war in a hospital room. Belgian comic artist Hermann wrote a graphic novel about this conflict, called the "tango" of a city central to it, which uses barely disguised analogues to real people such as Lewis Mackenzie and David Owen. Longtime DC artist Joe Kubert created one of his few non-superhero books based on communications from the founder of *Strip Art*, a fellow comic book artist who was caught in this conflict. The comic book *Superman: Deadly Legacy* was distributed in the area affected by this war to warn children about the dangers of landmines. A man who loses all his property in this war is paid cash to tell his story to journalists in the graphic novel *The (*) Fixer*. A hero of this war was the subject of the story "Soba," which appears in the graphic novel *War's End* alongside a story about trying to find a notorious war criminal from this conflict on Christmas. Another graphic novel about this war condemns Michael Rose's failure to secure the Blue Road and focuses on a town designated a "safe area." For 10 points, identify this war discussed in Joe Sacco's *Safe Area Goradze* and "Christmas With Karadzic," as well as Joe Kubert's *Fax From Sarajevo*.

ANSWER: Yugoslav Wars [or the Bosnian War or the breakup of Yugoslavia, etc.]

7. **Description acceptable.** One lesser-known text of this type describes a war on the "Emathian plains" when "all the forces of the shaken world conspired to make mankind guilty." Another minor text of this genus begins by describing a "spirit touched by Pierian fire." The word *polutropon* most notably occurs in one of these relatively brief writings that attributes a mass death to *atasthalie*. One of these texts inquires about a *numen laesum* as a possible explanation for its concluding question, *tantaene animis caelestibus irae?* One of these passages, which unusually uses the word *menin* in reference to a mortal's (*) anger, envisions heroes "left as carrion for dogs and birds" and "cast...down to Hades." Perhaps the most famous of these passages lionizes an "exile by fate" who brought his gods to "Lavinian shores." For 10 points, name these passages from classical literature that promise upcoming poems about "arms and the man" or "the wrath of Achilles."

ANSWER: epic proems [or proemia; epic prefaces; or openings of epics; or invocations of the muse; prompt on epics or epic poems]

8. On a visit to this state, the narrator of an essay feels the "chill of death" in his groin when he sees his son put on a wet swimsuit. In this state, a pharmacist falls in love with Denise Thibodeau after Tony Kuzio accidentally shoots her husband on a hunt in one of thirteen connected stories. E.B. White described returning to a childhood vacation spot in this state in the essay "Once More to the Lake." Another essay about a visit to this state debunks the claim that animals need a cerebral cortex to suffer, then describes the sound of a "thrashing" creature "scraping the sides of a kettle" to question the morality of (*) eating it. An unnamed writer befriends Almira Todd and Captain Littlepage while staying in Dunnet Landing in this state, where Elizabeth Strout set the novel *Olive Kitteridge*. For 10 points, name this common literary tourist destination, the setting of Sarah Orne Jewett's *Country of the Pointed Firs* and David Foster Wallace's "Consider the Lobster."

ANSWER: Maine

9. At the conclusion of this novel, the protagonist realizes that people believe in “eternal memory” and “redressability,” but “everything will be forgotten and nothing will be redressed.” A jilted woman in this novel tries to kill herself with her assistant’s bottle of aspirin, but survives because the bottle actually contains her assistant’s laxatives. A Christian girl named Lucie forces off its protagonist’s attempts to seduce her and eventually falls in love with her fellow believer Kostka. That protagonist more successfully seduces his friend Pavel’s wife Helena, only to find out that Pavel doesn’t care, in this novel’s seventh section, which depicts (*) Jaroslav’s equally ironic failure to revive the Ride of the Kings. The protagonist of this novel embarks on his revenge plot after being kicked out of the Communist Party for sending a postcard with the message “Long live Trotsky!” For 10 points, name this Milan Kundera novel in which Ludvik Jahn gets in trouble for the title attempt at levity.

ANSWER: *The Joke* [or Žert]

10. In a passage from one of this author’s famous stories, the protagonist watches “a dozen husbands impale a dozen brides” while having sex with the Marquis in a room full of mirrors. Desiderio saves the Minister of Determination from the title character’s “shock troops of the unreal” in this author’s fantasy novel, *The Infernal Desire Machines of Doctor Hoffmann*. Another of her books is about Lizzie Fevvers, a woman born out of an egg who uses her wings to become a trapeze artist. This author of *Nights at the Circus* had the heroine seduce a wolf in her (*) grandmother’s bed in a version of Little Red Riding Hood, and had the bride’s mother save her from her murderous husband in a version of the Bluebeard myth. For 10 points, name this English writer who retold folktales as feminist stories like “The Bloody Chamber.”

ANSWER: Angela Carter

11. In a story, a jealous husband impales this man on a spear while he drinks milk out of a hole in the ground. Another literary work about this man quotes Emerson’s assertion that “the lengthened shadow of a man / is history” before noting that Emerson never saw this man’s silhouette. W.D. Snodgrass’s *Heart’s Needle* begins with a translated story in which this man jumps down, naked, from a tree after hearing that his family is dead. Flann O’Brien’s novel *At Swim-Two-Birds* takes its title from a church visited by this character, who appears alongside Finn McCool. The most famous poem about this man references the sounds in “the bloody wood / where (*) Agamemnon cried aloud” as a parallel for the music that comes from near “the Convent of the Sacred Heart.” For 10 points, name this “apeneck” mad king, a recurring character in T.S. Eliot poems, one of which places him “Among the Nightingales.”

ANSWER: Sweeney [or Suibhne]

12. One collection addressed to this man calls him “begotten from ancestral kings” and notes that “wars are detested by mothers.” Another collection compares the speaker’s fear for this man to that of a mother hen who fears a serpent devouring her eggs. That collection accuses this man of poisoning the speaker with garlic that burns hotter than the shirt on Hercules’ back. The song “Gaudeamus Igitur” prays for the *caritas* of people like this man. This man was frequently lampooned for his homosexual affections towards Bathyllus and his lavish gardens on the Esquiline Hill. In a satire, the speaker complains about all the letters of recommendation he has to bring this man after praising this man’s (*) gift of a Sabine farm. The *Georgics* begin with a dedication to this man, to whom Vergil introduced Horace. For 10 points, name this wealthy patron of Roman poets in the time of Augustus.

ANSWER: Gaius Cilnius Maecenas

13. The author of this book was partly inspired by his relationship with Jean Ross and his landlady Meta Thureau. In one part of this book, the narrator enters into a possibly homoerotic friendship with Bernhard Landauer via his teaching relationship with Natalie Landauer. Another section of this book ends with the narrator receiving a postcard from Rio de Janeiro reading, “What have I done to deserve all this?” The second half of this book famously begins with the line, “I am a (*) camera with its shutter open, quite passive, recording, not thinking.” The first story in this book describes how the author’s alter ego William Bradshaw befriends the title German communist. The character of Sally Bowles from this collection later become a leading character in the film *Cabaret*. For 10 points, name this pair of novellas, *Goodbye to Berlin* and *Mr. Norris Changes Trains*, written by Christopher Isherwood.

ANSWER: *The Berlin Stories* [anti-prompt on Mr. Norris Changes Trains or Goodbye to Berlin]

14. The villain of this work repeatedly tries to drown his king's chaplain to disprove a mermaid's prophecy that out of his band, only the chaplain will survive. Its hero invisibly helps his friend win a javelin toss, a boulder-throwing contest, and a long jump to get that friend a wife, whom that hero robs of her girdle and ring on her wedding night. At the end of this text, Hildebrand beheads a queen who wields the sword (*) Balmung on the orders of her husband, Etzel. This poem explains the historical destruction of the Burgundian court at Worms as Kriemhild's vengeance for her dead husband, who is killed by Hagen in his one weak point, a leaf-shaped region on his back. For 10 points, name this German epic poem about Siegfried that helped inspire Wagner's Ring Cycle.

ANSWER: *Das Nibelungenlied* [or *The Song of the Nibelungs*; accept flowerier translations like *The Song of the Nibelung Dwarves* etc.; be generous about the initial article in German, since Matt Bollinger himself didn't get the gender right when writing this question]

15. As a child, the protagonist of this book throws a tantrum over going to school that his grandfather dispels by grabbing him by the hand and silently marching him to school miles away. The protagonist of this book retires to Wenlock Abbey to recover from the trauma of watching his sister Louisa die of typhus contracted in a car accident. The preface to this book quotes the opening lines to Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Confessions* before comparing the main character to a mannequin over which garments can be draped. Chapter 1 notes that "Probably no child, born in the year, held (*) better cards than" its protagonist. The protagonist of this book becomes a professor at Harvard College, but disavows the experience he gained there, instead using his time studying science at Great Expositions to develop a "Dynamo Theory of History." For 10 points, name this famous autobiography by the grandson of a President.

ANSWER: *The Education of Henry Adams*

16. **Description acceptable.** One of these texts by a specific author claims that the origin of the runic cross comes from the wheel symbol of the Monotones combined with the Christian cross. Another of these texts by that same author summarizes the plot of *The Conference of the Birds* before comparing its ideas to those of Plotinus' *Enneads*. A particularly detailed writing of this type describes a church believing that all men at the moment of climax are the same man and all men who repeat Shakespeare become William Shakespeare. One of these texts amusingly cites (*) Jaromir Hladik's opinions to rebut the theological ideas of Nils Runeberg. Another one, appearing in a more famous story, cites Letizia Alvarez de Toledo's claim that a structure of hexagons would be useless, and in fact only one volume is needed to contain all possible books. For 10 points, name these not-so-explanatory postscripts to the stories of an Argentine writer.

ANSWER: Jorge Luis **Borges' footnotes** [accept any answers indicating **footnotes** to any kind of works by **Borges**; prompt for type of text on answers like "Works/Short Stories of Borges"; prompt for author on answers like "footnotes"]

17. Two characters in this play exchange their versions of recent political events, with one displaying a letter showing an offer of an alliance from a man who "Plucked the green fruit, ere the first blush of red." This play contains a preface to the reader asking forgiveness for its relatively unspectacular staging and a dedication to Thomas Osborne, an anti-Catholic leader at court who is analogized to this play's central male character. A character in this play is given a bleeding ruby bracelet that is ferried by a eunuch. At the start of this play, mysterious happenings such as "forsaken dolphins with their broad tails" and a ghost bursting out of a tomb are discussed in a list of "portents of prodigies" discussed by the priests Myrsis and (*) Serapion. A character in this play, who was once accused of having a "warmth" for the main female character, is recalled to reconcile, after which Dolabella plots with a man who later kills himself, Ventidius, to accomplish a political seduction. Unusually, this play depicts the major female character using a dagger, rather than a snake, to kill herself, even though it is based on the final scenes of Shakespeare's treatment of the same thing. For 10 points, name this play by John Dryden about the final hours of Antony and Cleopatra.

ANSWER: *All For Love*

18. Characters in this novel visit a bar on Bucareli Street where the waitresses offer blowjobs to patrons who write them poems. A climactic point in this novel is the discovery of a poem called “Zion” in an obscure magazine that consists of three hieroglyphs depicting a boat on the water. In a subplot from this novel, Father Urrutia discovers that the priests all over Europe have been training killer falcons like Ta Gueule, Xenophon, and Othello to protect their churches from pigeon excrement. The leading group in this novel becomes obsessed with the disappearance of the poet (*) Cesarea Tinajero, whose work has been lost. In the first section of this novel, Juan Garcia Madero joins up with a literary gang under the leadership of Arturo Belano and Ulises Lima, who call themselves the “Visceral Realists.” For 10 points, name this novel by Roberto Bolaño, his second-most-famous after 2666.

ANSWER: *The Savage Detectives* [or *Los detectives salvajes*]

19. One of this writer’s books contains a scene in which the protagonist burns a harmless snake’s eggs to stop vipers from hatching because she remembers the snakes present at her father’s death. In a semi-autobiographical novel, this writer created an artist who paints “pretty pictures” for others and “ghost pictures” for himself, and who is put under the care of Flatfish after a double suicide attempt that only he survives. In one of this author’s novels, the protagonist discovers the “Moonflower Journal” detailing her brother Naoji’s descent into (*) addiction; that novel, set in postwar Japan, concerns Kazuko’s decision to look for her old flame Uehara. In his most famous novel, Yozo’s morphine addiction leads his relatives to commit him to an insane asylum that signifies the title state of alienation. For 10 points, name this Japanese author of *The Setting Sun* and *No Longer Human*.

ANSWER: Dazai Osamu [accept names in either order, but don’t accept or prompt on just “Osamu”]

20. This poem compares its setting to a desert where “the eagle brings some hunter’s bone” and asks, “Is this the scene / where the old Earthquake-daemon taught her young / Ruin?” The second stanza of this poem concludes by imagining the “still cave of the witch Poesy” where the speaker’s mind seeks “Ghosts of all things that are.” This poem claims that its addressee has “a voice” to “repeal / Large codes of fraud and woe” and possesses “the secret strength of things” which “to the infinite dome / of Heaven is as a law.” This poem was originally published as the culminating piece in *History of a Six Weeks’ Tour*, a collaborative journal the poet wrote with his wife. Beginning “The (*) everlasting universe of things / flows through the mind, and rolls its rapid waves,” this poem often apostrophizes the River Arve and consists of lines written in the Vale of Chamounix on a visit to its title landmark. For 10 points, name this Percy Shelley poem ostensibly about a mountain in the Alps.

ANSWER: “Mont Blanc”