

1. Antipater of Thessalonica wrote an epigram about a runner named Apollodorus who died in this way. Johann Moritz Rugendas nearly dies this way in César Aira's *An Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter*. In *All the Pretty Horses*, Jimmy Blevins says that this way of dying runs in the family, and his fear of dying like this leads to his horse getting stolen. A line from *Lolita* in which Humbert Humbert mentions that this is how his mother died during a picnic provides the title of a volume of poetry by Billy Collins. In Greek mythology, this is how Salmoneus died, and it is also how Asclepius was killed as punishment for raising people from the dead. A certain god was able to kill people this way thanks to a gift from the Cyclopes. For 10 points, name this method of death often suffered by people who angered Zeus.

ANSWER: getting struck by lightning [or a thunderbolt]

2. As a child, Marcel Féron suffers from this disease in Georges Simenon's *The Train*. Selma Lagerlöf wrote *Thy Soul Shall Bear Witness!* to raise public awareness of this disease. In another novel, Michel nearly dies of this disease, which impels him to give up his academic studies and experience the sensual aspects of life. The syphilis which Dr. Rank suffers from in *A Doll's House* is euphemistically referred to as this disease "of the spine." Edmund Tyrone is diagnosed with this disease in *Long Day's Journey into Night*, and *The Magic Mountain* is set at a sanatorium for this disease. For 10 points, name this disease which is often referred to as "consumption" in old novels.

ANSWER: tuberculosis [or consumption before mentioned]

3. A notable literary death from this cause "overstepp[ed] the limits of Fiction" and gave "currency to a vulgar error," according to a review by George Henry Lewes. Drinking cheap liquor causes a sailor to die of this cause in Melville's *Redburn*. It is also how Clara and Theodore's father dies in Charles Brockden Brown's *Wieland*. The most famous character to die this way is the rag and bottle merchant Krook in *Bleak House*. For 10 points, name this highly implausible manner of death in which a person catches fire for no apparent reason.

ANSWER: spontaneous human combustion

4. This is how the disfigured woman in Kobo Abe's *The Face of Another* dies. It is also how the title character of Thomas Mann's "Little Herr Friedemann" dies. After contracting syphilis, Daria dies in this manner in Sholokhov's *And Quiet Flows the Don*. At the beginning of *Wide Sargasso Sea*, this is how Mr. Luttrell dies after shooting his dog. A tramp dies this way near a "coolibah tree" in the poem "Waltzing Matilda." In the *Kalevala*, Aino dies like this and thus avoids having to marry Väinämöinen. This is how Quentin Compson dies in *The Sound and the Fury*. Another character dies this way after finding a letter from Robert Lebrun saying that he is leaving. For 10 points, how does Edna Pontellier die at the end of *The Awakening*?

ANSWER: drowning themselves [prompt on drowning or committing suicide]

5. A shepherd is prevented from dying of this cause by the timely intervention of the title insect of Virgil's "The Gnat." In a novel by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., a woman dies of this cause soon after giving birth to her daughter, giving that daughter, Elsie Venner, strange powers. Clym Yeobright's mother dies of this cause in *The Return of the Native*. In another novel, Consuelo has sex with a gardener who is dying of this cause, becoming pregnant with her daughter Eva Luna. This is the cause of Kamala's death in *Siddhartha*. A woman who dies of this cause is the lover of a musician who travels to the Underworld to get her back, and at the end of a Shakespeare play, a woman dies of this cause while imagining her reunion with Antony in the afterlife. For 10 points, both Eurydice and Cleopatra died of what cause?

ANSWER: a snakebite

6. In a novel by John Edgar Wideman, four men from Philadelphia plan to inflict this fate on a police officer. Big Henry suffers this fate in the most famous novel by Lillian Smith. In one short story, Jube Benson suffers this fate. The sheriff Jesse gets sexually aroused by his memory of a man suffering this fate in the short story "Going to Meet the Man." A boy from Cincinnati watches a man suffer this fate in the short story "A Party Down at the Square." A character named Kabnis dreads this fate, which is suffered by Tom Burwell in Jean Toomer's *Cane*. In *Of Mice and Men*, George shoots Lennie to save him from this fate. For 10 points, name this fate commonly suffered by African-American characters who have been accused of crimes.

ANSWER: being lynched

7. A decidedly non-life-threatening one of these events takes place in the novel *A Shabby Genteel Story*, which is reminiscent of a scene in another novel by the same author, in which the title character mistakenly thinks that John

Quin died during one of these events. Similarly, Chimène mistakenly believes that Rodrigue died during one of these events in Corneille's *Le Cid*. Valmont dies as a result of one of these events in *Dangerous Liaisons*. A deacon prevents Laevsky from dying in one of these events in a story by Chekhov. One of these events taking place on the edge of a cliff results in the death of Grushnitsky in *A Hero of Our Time*. Lensky is killed in one of these events in *Eugene Onegin*. For 10 points, name these contests which are usually fought with swords or pistols.

ANSWER: duels

8. In Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife*, Hulan tells Winnie about how her sister died while performing this action. The Sister of Mercy announces that one character died while doing this in Maeterlinck's play *Intruder*. Trying to prevent this action from happening causes the death of Wendla Bergmann in *Spring Awakening* and April Wheeler in *Revolutionary Road*. Lilia Herriton dies while doing this in *Where Angels Fear to Tread*. Prue dies while doing this in the "Time Passes" chapter of *To the Lighthouse*. Cherokee Sal dies while doing this in "The Luck of Roaring Camp." In *A Farewell to Arms*, Catherine Barkley dies as a result of doing this. For 10 points, name this action which often results in the death of both the mother and her child.

ANSWER: giving birth

9. In a short story by Arthur C. Clarke, a sound engineer creates a Word Counter to prove that his wife talks more than him, but when she tricks it into thinking that he talks more than her, he angrily kills her by doing this. This is how Kay Strong dies, though it is not clear whether it was an accident, at the end of Mary McCarthy's *The Group*. This is how Clare dies in the famously ambiguous ending of Nella Larsen's *Passing*. It is also how Nathanael dies at the end of E. T. A. Hoffmann's "The Sandman." A journalist named Feletti inquires about a character who died in this manner, whose death is also investigated by a pathological liar named the Maniac and by Inspector Bertozzo. For 10 points, how does the title character die in Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of An Anarchist*?

ANSWER: falling out of a window [or defenestration; accept basically anything with the word "window"]

10. This is how Ling dies in Marguerite Yourcenar's story "How Wang-Fo Was Saved." In Salman Rushdie's *Shame*, Sufiya Zinobia does this to men who have raped her. In the Ulster Cycle, Bricriu challenges three heroes to kill a churl in this manner. A group of mentally disabled children do this to Berta in a short story by Horacio Quiroga. One character is executed in this manner after being accused of "gnostical turpitude"; that character is named Cincinnatus C. Woland correctly predicts that this is how Berlioz will die in *The Master and Margarita*. The second title character of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* magically manages to survive this. For 10 points, name this fate that, in the Bible, befalls John the Baptist at the request of Salome.

ANSWER: decapitation [or beheading]

11. A poem by Heathcote Williams which bemoans the number of deaths from this cause has a title which is based on the word "Armageddon." At the end of Françoise Sagan's *Bonjour Tristesse*, a distraught Anne dies in this manner. A man predicts that he will die in this manner but doesn't bother to try preventing it in a short story by Denis Johnson. This is how Hector dies in *Omeros*. In one novel, Robert Vaughan fantasizes about dying in this manner along with Elizabeth Taylor. The death of James Agee's father in this manner is the basis for *A Death in the Family*. George makes up a story about his son dying in this manner in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*. For 10 points, Daisy kills Myrtle Wilson in what manner in *The Great Gatsby*?

ANSWER: car accident

12. This happens to the title character of "The Lady with a Ring" in European folklore. In two of the five extant ancient Greek novels, this happens to the female protagonist, but she is saved from death by the timely intervention of pirates. The title character of Balzac's *Colonel Chabert* survives this fate, as does the title character of Bellow's *Mr. Sammler's Planet*. It happens to Sinbad on his fourth voyage after his wife dies. The cataleptic narrator of an Edgar Allan Poe short story has a phobia of suffering this fate, which befalls the title character of "Berenice," Madeline in "The Fall of the House of Usher," and Fortunato in "The Cask of Amontillado." For 10 points, name this fate which befalls characters who are mistakenly thought to be dead.

ANSWER: being buried alive

13. This is how Trinidad kills the mice infesting the church in Gabriel García Márquez's *In Evil Hour*. Mizoguchi considers stabbing himself or committing suicide in this manner, though he ultimately decides not to, in *The Temple of the Golden Pavilion*. This how Merricat kills most of her family in Shirley Jackson's *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*. It is implied that this is how Homer Barron is killed in "A Rose for Emily." This poison is put in

Mithridates' meat in "Terence, This Is Stupid Stuff." After tricking Monsieur Homais' apprentice into thinking she wants to kill some rats, this is how Emma Bovary kills herself. For 10 points, name this poison which, in the title of a Joseph Kesselring play, is paired with "old lace."

ANSWER: arsenic poisoning

14. The narrator of Juan José Saer's *The Witness* watches his crewmates suffer this fate. A warrior shamefully begs not to suffer this fate in the epic poem *I-Juca-Pirama* by Antônio Gonçalves Dias. This manner of death is used as the central metaphor of a poem which asks "Tupi or not Tupi" by Oswald de Andrade. This is the ultimate fate of Frank in *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*. Catharine Holly tells the horrific story of how Sebastian Venable suffered this fate in Tennessee Williams' *Suddenly, Last Summer*. This is the ultimate fate of Chiron and Demetrius, the sons of Tamora in *Titus Andronicus*. For 10 points, name this fate which befell Itys and the sons of Thyestes in Greek mythology, as well as the victims of Hannibal Lecter.

ANSWER: being eaten [or being cannibalized; prompt on getting torn apart]

15. This is how Lieutenant Pumpkin dies in Esther Forbes' *Johnny Tremain*. Otto Dietrich zur Linde awaits this fate in the Borges story "Deutsches Requiem." This is how Gonzalo Bernal dies in *The Death of Artemio Cruz*. This is how Ramón Gris is killed after Pablo Ibbieta accidentally reveals his location to the authorities in Sartre's "The Wall." Jaromir Hladik delays being killed in this manner for a year so he can finish writing a play in the Borges story "The Secret Miracle." While waiting to be killed in this manner, Colonel Aureliano Buendía remembers his father taking home to discover ice. For 10 points, name this method of execution.

ANSWER: execution by firing squad

16. Pablo's mentor Emiel Kroger dies of this disease in Tennessee Williams' story "The Mysteries of the Joy Rio." James Many Horses is dying from this disease in a story from Sherman Alexie's *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*. The John Donne scholar Vivian Bearing dies of this disease in Margaret Edson's *Wit*. Biff Brannon's wife Alice dies of this disease in *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*. The title characters of *The Witches of Eastwick* cast a spell to give Jenny this disease out of jealousy. Toph's parents die of this disease in Dave Eggers' *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*. A character referred to only as "I" is misdiagnosed with this disease in *Soul Mountain*. For 10 points, name this disease which Oleg Kostoglotov suffers from in a novel by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

ANSWER: cancer [accept more specific answers]

17. Characters who die in this kind of event include Monsieur d'Astarac in Anatole France's *At the Sign of the Reine Pedauque* and Norma Larragoiti in Carlos Fuentes' *Where the Air Is Clear*. Will Shortz's favorite word derives from the name of a character from the *Aeneid* who is involved in one of these events, Ucalegon. In *Rabbit Redux*, one of these events kills the teenager who Rabbit has been living with, Jill Pendleton. Yoko dies in one of these events at the climax of *Snow Country*. Wanja survives one of these events started by Munira which kills three people in a brothel in *Petals of Blood*. For 10 points, name these events, one of which is started by Bertha Mason and destroys Thornfield Hall in *Jane Eyre*.

ANSWER: house fire

18. In *The Book of Margery Kempe*, Margery's husband ultimately dies from injuries sustained in this specific kind of location. Arthur Armstrong is murdered in a novel named after one of these locations, the most popular novel of Mary Roberts Rinehart. In a radio play, the artist Donner dies while chasing a fly in one of these locations. Juan Dahlmann is injured while carrying a copy of *The Arabian Nights* in one of these locations in the Borges story "The South." In *Gone with the Wind*, Scarlett survives an accident in this location, but it causes her to have a miscarriage. The story of the mysterious death of Amy Robsart in this manner was popularized by Sir Walter Scott's *Kenilworth*. For 10 points, name these treacherous household locations which are often the sites of falls.

ANSWER: staircases

19. Much of Marina Tsvetaeva's poetry was influenced by her grief over her daughter's death from this cause. Master Frankford's wife Anne nearly kills herself in this manner in Thomas Heywood's play *A Woman Killed with Kindness*. One of the many characters who dies in Kamala Markandaya's *Nectar in a Sieve* is Rukmani's last son Kuti, who dies of this cause. Fedina de Rosas' baby dies of this cause in *El Señor Presidente*. In *Germinal*, one of Maheu's daughters dies of this cause. In a Kafka story, an artist dies of this cause in a cage before being replaced by

a panther. It also causes the death of Quasimodo in *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*. For 10 points, name this cause of death of the title character of “Bartleby the Scrivener,” who evidently preferred not to eat.

ANSWER: starvation [or hunger]

20. One chapter of Julian Barnes’ *A History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters* recounts the aftermath of a historical instance of one of these deadly events. One of these events kills Virginia in Bernardin de Saint-Pierre’s novel *Paul and Virginia*. In *The House by the Medlar Tree*, one of these events kills Bastianazzo and ruins the fortunes of the central family. The tutor Pedrillo is killed as a result of one of these events in *Don Juan*. A poem about one of these events takes place near Norman’s Woe. In another poem, one of these events kills five Franciscan nuns. Thomas Hardy wrote “The Convergence of the Twain” about one of these events. For 10 points, name this type of disaster which befalls the *Hesperus* in a Longfellow poem and the *Deutschland* in a Hopkins poem.

ANSWER: shipwrecks