

21 Tossups

1. One poem in this collection shares a fireman's advice not to book a room above the fifth floor in any New York hotel, but then later imagines ascending past the five-hundredth floor while performing the title action. In addition to "Riding the Elevator Into the Sky," this collection contains a poem that begins "I am torn in two but I will conquer myself," titled "The Civil War," as well as a poem that describes death looking on "with a casual eye," as Nazis eat babies for breakfast, "After Auschwitz." The poet imagines eating herself "bite by bite" and sees herself as a "defaced altar" in a poem in this collection titled "The Sickness Unto Death," while in another poem she imagines being (*) "stamped out like a Plymouth fender into this world." The last poem of this collection has a title that claims that this collection's title action "endeth," and imagines the narrator docking at an island and playing poker with this collection's title figure, who wins despite the poet's royal flush because he holds five aces. This collection was preceded in publication by *The Death Notebooks* and followed by *45 Mercy Street*, and was proofread by its author shortly before she committed suicide in 1974. For 10 points, identify this last poetry collection of Anne Sexton.

ANSWER: *The Awful Rowing Toward God*

2. The fifth scene of this play was originally excised from the published version and was first performed 33 years after this play's publication; that scene depicts this play's main character sitting in a cage labeled "the North American murderer," and eating eight courses of ham and eggs. The entire first scene of this play is a monologue by the wife of the main character, and in its last scene that main character is sent back by Lieutenant Charles, who tells the main character that he's a "slave to a contraption of steel and iron." The prostitute (*) Judy O'Grady attempts to have sex on the main character's grave in this play's sixth scene, while in its seventh scene the main character encounters Daisy, who had killed herself out of love for him. After being executed for the murder of his boss, this play's main character ends up in the Elysian fields, which he is told are full of degenerates by a man named Shrdlu who had killed his own mother. For 10 points, identify this play about Mr. Zero, who is replaced by the title calculating apparatus, written by Elmer Rice.

ANSWER: *The Adding Machine*

3. According to Arnold Zweig, a sentence in this work that describes its title character as feeling "no tiredness, only sometimes it struck him as unpleasant that he could not walk on his head," marked "the beginning of modern European prose." After hearing of the death of a girl in a neighboring village, this work's title character travels there in sackcloth and ashes to pray to God to resurrect her, but when his prayer fails he experiences a crisis of faith. In this work Christoph Kaufmann attempts to persuade the title character to return home using letters written by that character's father, and after attempting suicide by throwing himself out of a window, the title character is sent off to Strasbourg by the man who has been caring for him. This story, which opens with a notable description of its title character traveling across the snow-covered (*) Vosges mountains, uses as its source material an account by the pastor Johann Friedrich Oberlin of the time its title character spent in the village of Waldbach. For 10 points, identify this novella about the titular *Sturm und Drang* playwright, the only known prose work of Georg Büchner.

ANSWER: *Lenz*

4. In one novel, a minor character with this profession becomes a sort of psychoanalyst for a group called the Whole Sick Crew. In addition to being the profession of Dudley Eigenvalue in Thomas Pynchon's *V.*, this is also the profession of Nathan Zuckerman's brother Henry in Philip Roth's *The Counterlife*, as well as of Freddy Thorpe in John Updike's *Couples*. In another novel, Eberhard Starusch repeatedly visits a man who practices this profession and uses a television set to distract his visitors. This profession is practiced by (*) Bushi, a man who steals gold from corpses, in Naguib Mahfouz's *Midaq Alley*. A man with this profession marries Trina and eventually finds himself handcuffed to the body of Marcus Schouler, whom he killed. For 10 points, identify this specialized medical profession practiced by a main character in Gunter Grass' *Local Anaesthetic* and also held by the titular character of Frank Norris' *McTeague*.

ANSWER: dentist [prompt on general answers like "doctor" or "physician"]

5. Along with Thomas Tranströmer, this poet was the subject of a Helen Vendler article in the New York Review of Books titled, “Staring Through the Stitches.” The painting *Two Monkeys in Chains* inspired this poet’s “Brueghel’s Two Monkeys,” which is contained, along with “Notes from a Nonexistent Himalayan Expedition,” in this poet’s third volume, *Calling Out to Yeti*. This poet wrote that because “he’d had enough of dying species,” Darwin “read novels to relax/ But only certain kinds:/ nothing that ended unhappily,” in a poem titled “Consolation,” and imagined that “it turns out I was right/ But nothing has come of it,” in her “Soliloquy for Cassandra.” The title entity “can’t take a joke/find a star, make a bridge” in her poem “On Death, without Exaggeration,” which was contained in her collection (*) *The People on the Bridge*. This poet wrote that “After every war/ someone has to clean up/ Things won’t/ straighten themselves up, after all,” in a poem titled “The End and the Beginning,” contained in her collection *Miracle Fair*, and a comprehensive selection of her poetry published as *View With a Grain of Sand* in 1995, one year before she won the Nobel Prize. For 10 points, identify this Polish poet.

ANSWER: Wisława Szyborska-[Włodek]

6. At one point in this novel, the narrator befriends a woman named Leto on whose urging the narrator briefly serves as a snake hunter. In this novel, the narrator and her lover occasionally play a game called “Filling in the White Spaces in the Dictionary,” and this novel’s narrator continuously invents titles for her major work such as “A Fete Worse Than Death,” and “I Love a Demystified Thing Inordinately.” This novel is set in the village of Tsau, which is organized as an experimental matriarchal society, and at its end, the narrator manipulates a girl named Bronwen into sleeping with her former lover after that lover is injured during a trip across the desert. Like the author’s first work, a short story collection titled (*) *Whites*, this novel is set in Botswana, where the author served as a Peace Corps administrator. For 10 points, identify this novel which focuses on the unnamed narrator’s affair with Nelson Denoon, which won the 1991 National Book Award for Norman Rush.

ANSWER: Mating

7. A late work by this author was a satire of the interactions between debtors and creditors titled *Worldly Mental Calculations*. This author’s facility as a poet is attested to by his three hundred inclusions in a book of poems dedicated at Ikudama, as well as by the fact that he was known as the “Master of Twenty Thousand Verses.” This author’s novel’s are a notable depiction of the *chonin* culture, and the period of his writing between 1682 and 1686 is dominated by works called *koshokubon*. A girl named Oshichi who is burned at the stake for arson which she commits to attract the samurai Onogawa and a woman named Osawa who falls in love with Moemon, the lover of her maid Rin, are two of the title characters in this author’s collection *Five Women Who (*) Loved Love*. As a poet, this writer was best known for his *ukiyo zoshi*, or “notes of the floating world” style. For 10 points, identify this author best known for his erotic novels such as *The Life of an Amorous Woman*, a 17th century Japanese writer.

ANSWER: Ihara Saikaku [accept either name, or both names in either order]

8. This critic characterized the subject of one of his essays as “not, strictly speaking, a novelist,” but rather an author of “Cautionary Tales,” in his essay on the author of *Miss Lonelyhearts*, “West’s Disease.” This critic wrote of the difficulty of grasping the “syllabic verse” of the author of “The Pangolin,” in his essay on Marianne Moore, whom he grouped with D.H. Lawrence as one of two “bestiaries.” In an essay whose title reverses the order of two figures that title a chapter of Henry Adams’ *Mont St. Michel and Chartres*, this critic claimed that Adams, in worshipping Venus, actually worshipped the second title figure of “The Virgin and the Dynamo.” This critic borrowed from the *Biographia Literaria* the distinction between Primary and Secondary Imagination that he explored in a lecture later published as (*) “Making, Knowing, and Judging,” and drew on the example of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza in an essay analyzing the master-servant relationship in literature, “Balaam and His Ass.” For 10 points, identify this critic whose studies of, among other things, Shakespeare, are collected in the volume *The Dyer’s Hand*.

ANSWER: W[ystan] H[ugh] Auden

9. A character in this series of novels carries with him a locket stolen from his former lover, which she told him contained an image of her true beloved but in fact has turned out to be empty. The title character of this series of books takes as his consort a woman whom he has raped and given the name “Diana” for her proficiency in hunting; later, Diana takes an arrow for this series’ title character, who also kicks to death a dog that used to belong to an old woman with stigmata. At the end of the final book of this series, the title character rests near a statue of the Virgin Mary and before dying has a vision of his lover, who drowned herself after the title character’s family forced her into an abortion. The second book in this trilogy consists mostly of the story of Giovanni, as told to the series’ title character, who is first encountered by the Wandering Jew at an inn in this trilogy’s first book. Consisting of the novels *The Death of Ahasuerus*, (*) *Pilgrim at Sea*, and *The Holy Land*, for 10 points, identify this continuation of *Barrabas* and *The Sibyl*, a trilogy named for its pilgrim character and written by Pär Lagerkvist.

ANSWER: Tobias Trilogy [accept Pilgrim trilogy before mention]

10. This author combined two works *Ravenswood* and *Dunelawn*, into a single work titled *Bad Habits*, which contrasts two sanatoriums, one in which inmates are allowed to act out, and one in which they are kept in straightjackets. In one work by this author, Stephen comes over to Mendy’s apartment but forgets to bring a prized recording of a Maria Callas performance of the title opera. In addition to writing *The Lisbon Traviata*, this author told the story of Maria Callas again in *The* (*) *Master Class*. Another of this author’s plays is set on Fire Island on the Fourth of July, where the straight couple Sally and Sam entertain Sam’s sister and her husband in a house that Sally inherited from her brother, who died of AIDS. This author of *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart*, wrote about eight gay friends who spend holidays in the Hudson Valley house belonging to Gregory and his lover Bobby in another play, and also transposed the story of Jesus as a gay man in the titular 1950s Texas Town. For 10 points, identify this American playwright of *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Corpus Christi*.

ANSWER: Terrence McNally

11. The author of this work explained that in writing it, he hoped “to embody in modern terms... a contemporary approximation of an ancient human culture,” in his own critical work titled “General Aims and Theories.” This work’s third section opens with an address to the “capped arbiter of beauty” and the “religious gunman!” and consists of the first title character’s reminiscences of having served as a pilot during a war. The second section of this poem imagines the title characters in a jazz hall where the narrator imagines that he has “known metallic paradises,” and “seen the (*) incunabula of the divine grotesque.” At the end of its first part, the first title character of this poem begs the second to “accept a lone eye riveted to your plane/ bent axle of devotion along companion ways.” This poem is prefaced with a quote from *The Alchemist* and according to a letter sent by its author to Waldo Frank, its first part is intended as an “evocation of beauty,” of its second title character. For 10 points, identify this epithalamic poem which transposes into modern times the love between two characters from a Christopher Marlowe play, written by Hart Crane.

ANSWER: “For the Marriage of Faustus and Helen”

12. In one novel, a character with this name writes a book called “the Interlinear,” a commentary on a manuscript sent to that character by his friend, which also reveals that a different character’s true love was Pursewarden. That character with this name also appears in a different novel in which he accidentally discharges a harpoon into another character’s hand, necessitating a rescue that ends with Clea losing that hand. In a play, a character with this name kills Don Andrea and subsequently falls in love with that man’s fiancée, Bel-Imperia, but is later killed on stage while acting the part of Emperor Soliman due to the machinations of (*) Hieronymo. Shakespearean characters of this name include the personal servants of Portia and Romeo, while in another novel a character with this name is given the moniker “Seven-Suns,” and assists the priest Bartolomeo de Gusmao in his flight experiments. This name, possessed by a learned Jew, titles the third novel of Durrell’s *Alexandria Quartet* and also names the villain of Thomas Kyd’s *The Spanish Tragedy*. For 10 points, identify this name which titles a José Saramago novel together with that of “Blimunda.”

ANSWER: Balthasar or Balthazar or Baltasar

13. One poet from this polity authored the collections *One Foot in Eden* and *Chorus of the Newly Dead*, and together with his wife Willa Anderson was a notable translator of authors such as Leon Feuchtwanger, Gerhard Hauptmann, and Franz Kafka. Another poet from this polity was a communist whose volumes included *First Hymn to Lenin* and who also wrote a long poetic monologue titled “A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle.” The title character of an epic poem by a writer from this polity competes with Ralph (*) de Wilton for the love of Clare during the titular conflict, while another poem from this polity begins with “three kings great and high” swearing to kill the title character. This region was once home to a poet best known for his four-part nature poem titled *The Seasons*, James Thomson, as well as the authors of *Marmion* and “John Barleycorn,” and several poets from this polity wrote poetry in its native dialect known as *lallans*. For 10 points, identify this modern-day polity, a country once home to the poets Edwin Muir, Hugh MacDiarmid, and Robert Burns.

ANSWER: Scotland [prompt on “United Kingdom,” or “Great Britain,” do not accept “England” for obvious reasons]

14. In one novel by this author, a character known only as “the lieutenant” takes over a castle inhabited by Abel and Morgan during a post-apocalyptic war. In another novel by this author, a character named Jernau Morat Gurgeh, travels to the Empire of Azad in order to compete in a tournament centered on a game also called Azad. In addition to writing *A Song of Stone* and *The Player of Games*, this author wrote of Prentice McHoan’s attempts to solve the mystery of his uncle Rory’s disappearance in *The Crow Road*. This author’s first novel concerned Frank Cauldhame, who discovers that he is actually a girl who had been given male hormones and raised as a boy by his father; that novel is titled *The Wasp Factory*. This author is best known for a series of novels set in a universe in which human society is centrally planned by benevolent (*) artificial intelligences called “Minds;” these novels include *Consider Phlebas*, *Use of Weapons*, and the last, published a year before this author’s 2013 death, *The Hydrogen Sonata*. For 10 points, identify this Scottish science fiction novelist best known for his *Culture* series.

ANSWER Iain M[enzies] Banks

15. The first two stanzas of this poem both use the imagery of a “man in this house who cultivates snakes,” and that same figure later says “scrape that fiddle more darkly then hover like smoke in the air.” When that figure in this poem “walks from the house... all the stars start flashing.” The best-known version of this poem was first collected in its author’s volume *Poppy and Memory*, although it had previously appeared in another language in the magazine *Contemporanul* in Bucharest. In this poem, the golden (*) hair of Margaret is frequently contrasted with the “ashen” hair of Shulamit, and every stanza of this poem begins with the lines “Black milk of morning,” with the last stanza repeating the phrase “death is a master *aus Deutschland*.” For 10 points, identify this five-stanza poem about the murder of Jews in a concentration camp, written by Paul Celan.

ANSWER: “Death Fugue” or “Todesfugue”

16. At the end of this work, one character castrates himself to the cry of “On my rugs!” after which another character demands that the kitchens prepare to send him enough food for two thousand years. The seventh scene of this play opens in the funeral parlor where the corpse of Alfred is lying on a fake tomb of fake black marble, and begins with an explosion and the introduction of the Court Envoy. In the final lines of this play, a character addresses the audience, telling them “You must now go home, where everything... will be false than here.” The fact that the location in which this play is set is under siege by rebels is revealed by the (*) Bishop in the first scene, and the rebels themselves are led by Chantal. At the urging of the Envoy, a character in this play agrees to impersonate the Queen, while in a later scene Roger attempts to impersonate the Chief of Police with the help of Carmen. For 10 points, identify this play which takes place in Madame Irma’s brothel of illusions, written by Jean Genet.

ANSWER: *The* Balcony or *Le* Balcon

17. In one novel by this author, the title substance, vaguely denoting homosexuality, is produced by clones as a byproduct of writing and is then burned for fuel. In addition to writing *Blue Lard*, this author also wrote a novel set in 2028 in which a member of the title group ingests hallucinogenic fish while ferreting out dissidents. The title of another novel by this author refers to the number of beings of light imprisoned in bodies they call “meat machines” from which they can be awakened if smashed in the chest with a block of ice from the Tunguska meteorite. This author of *Day of the (*) Oprichnik* wrote about such an awakened being in a book titled *Bro*, the first novel of a trilogy titled after its middle book and concluding with the novel *23,000*. For 10 points, identify this contemporaneous Russian author of the *Ice* trilogy.

ANSWER: Vladimir [Georgievich] Sorokin

18. At two points in this work, the author repeats the phrase “Eia for those who never invented anything, for those who never explored anything, for those who never conquered anything.” This work ends with a plea to “bind me, bitter brotherhood, then, strangling me with your lasso of stars, rise dove.” Early in this work, the author imagines “Josephine, dreaming way up there,” and the “liberator” referenced in the same stanza refers to Victor Schoelcher. A later stanza of this poem invites the reader to “hear the (*) white world/ horribly weary from its immense efforts/ its stiff joints crack.” Many stanzas in this long poetic work begin with the line “At the end of daybreak,” and at the beginning of this poem, the narrator calls a policeman a “cockchafer of hope” and tells him to “beat it,” after which the narrator surveys “the hungry Antilles.” For 10 points, identify this long poem about the author’s home country of Martinique, written by Aimee Césaire.

ANSWER: Notebook of a Return to My Native Land [or Cahiers d’un retour au pays natal; accept close literal translations with or without “Notebook,” including Return to My Native Land and Notebook of a Return to the Native Land—the different titles are because of the different ways in which it was collected]

19. The second part of this work uses the analogy of the formation of sulfurous acid in the presence of a platinum catalyst, and its final short section proposes to “halt at the frontier of metaphysics or mysticism.” This work attacks what its author refers to as “the metaphysical theory of the substantial unity of the soul,” arguing that the type of person about whom this work is written does not have a (*) “personality” but “a particular medium.” According to this work, the possessor of the title quality must undergo “a continual self-sacrifice,” and argues that “it is in this depersonalization that art may be said to approach the condition of science.” This essay states that the first title concept “cannot be inherited, and if you want it, you must obtain it by great labour,” and that its key component is “the historical sense.” Arguing that the significance of a poet “is the appreciation of his relation to the dead poets and artists,” for 10 points, identify this critical essay by T.S. Eliot.

ANSWER: “Tradition and the Individual Talent”

20. One part of this work describes the author’s reluctance to tile his bathroom and argues that the toilet “is the perfect place... to enjoy any of those poignant moments that mark the change of the seasons.” Towards the end of this work, the author complains about a ruined moon-viewing at a popular hotel, and expresses dismay at the necessity for consulting traffic signals before crossing the street. This essay writes approvingly of the “sheen of antiquity” which the author calls “the glow of grime,” and a frequent target of criticism in this work is the widespread introduction of electric lighting. This work lauds the (*) “darkness of the No stage” for resembling “the darkness of the domestic architecture of the day,” and notes how in the author’s country the alcove obtains “a quality of mystery and depth,” by virtue of being cut off from the light. For 10 points, identify this essay which contrasts the Western love for shiny things with the Japanese love for the title light-generated phenomena, written by Junichiro Tanizaki.

ANSWER: In Praise of Shadows [or In’ei Raisan]

21. This poet wrote a single novel, a fictionalized account of a visit to the Puck Fair goat festival in Kerry, Ireland, titled *The Orgy*. This poet based one collection on an investigation conducted into incidents of silicosis among West Virginia miners. This poet declared “This is the cripple’s hour on” the titular boulevard in the poem “Seventh Avenue,” and described windows that “hold photography of the drowned faces the fat the unemployed” in a poem describing the reaction to the 1929 stock market crash, “Paper Anniversary.” The Hawk’s Nest disaster inspired this poet’s collection *The Book of the Dead*, and broke through in 1935 with the publication of her first volume, *Theory of Flight*. This poet wrote that the title condition of one of her poems was equivalent to being “offered a gift,” which was torment but whose refusal would result in “death of the spirit” in a poem that was adopted into the (*) Reconstructionist liturgy. For 10 points, identify this American poet of “To Be a Jew in the Twentieth Century.”

ANSWER: Muriel Rukeyser