

Fictional Characters in Popular Music:

a novelty packet written and edited by Vasa Clarke

1. This character was portrayed by Steve Martin as a mad scientist who turns people into Nazis in a film appearance opposite the Bee Gees. After a rampage, this character was apprehended by P.C. 31. Two supporters of this character are named Rose and Valerie. This character is instructed to write “I must not be so” after annoying a teacher, with violent results. This character’s first victim was a student of pataphysical science named Joan. For 10 points, name this serial killer, the subject of a Beatles song, who is armed with a silver hammer.

ANSWER: **Maxwell Edison** [accept either underlined name, by quizbowl convention]

2. The song titled for this character plays over the background of the scene in *Pulp Fiction* where Vincent receives directions from an intercom near an African sculpture. The narrator remembers this character “stealin’ kisses from me on the sly, takin’ time to make time.” This character’s name is given as “Billy Ray” and it is noted how this character would take the narrator for a romantic walk every time he’d visit with his father. For 10 points, name this character whom Dusty Springfield noted was “the only boy who could ever reach me” and the “only boy who could ever teach me.”

ANSWER: that sweet-talkin’ **son of a preacher man** [or “**Billy Ray**” before mention]

3. In a song titled for this character, the song’s narrator wistfully imagines a relationship where “we’ll fill in the missing colors of each other’s paint-by-number dreams.” In that song, this character is described as “caught between the longing for love and the struggle for the legal tender.” The audience is instructed to say a prayer for this character, “who started out so young and strong, only to surrender.” A better-known song titled for this character declares “spinning infinity, boy, the wheel is spinning me” before stating that “you’re [this character].” For 10 points, name this subject of a really melancholy Jackson Browne song and a somewhat more up-tempo song by the Foo Fighters.

ANSWER: **The Pretender**

4. In an appearance on the live album *Stand in the Fire*, one of these characters is described as “trying to buy a used car down at Delmar, it was a blood-red Coupe de Ville.” According to the song about them, these characters enjoy drinking piña coladas down at Trader Vic’s, and their hair is perfect. One of these characters is “the hairy-handed gent who ran amuck in Kent,” and they’ve been known to get a big dish of beef chow mein from the restaurant called Lee Ho Fook’s. For 10 points, name these English lycanthropes which appear in an iconic song by the late, great, Warren Zevon.

ANSWER: **Werewolves of London**

5. In a song about a character with this name, that character is instructed to “melt me with your little fingers.” A fictional character of this name is told that “I never knew a guy could cry / ‘til you made it with another guy” in a song which laments that she “left me alone.” A song instructs a girl with this name to “gimme a cup of that old black magic” before instructing that character

with this name to “wake up” because “love’s in season.” For 10 points, give this name which appears in both the title of an Elton John number that appears in South Park and also a classic Beach Boys song.

ANSWER: **Wendy**

6. In the animated TV series *Dexter’s Laboratory*, it is revealed that Dexter’s archrival Mandark notably shares his given name with this fictional song character. Nineties rock sensation Stone Temple Pilots mentioned “trippin’ as I’m thinkin’ about” this character in their song “Crackerman.” Apart from the forest fires, the only interesting thing to ever happen in Gatlinburg took place after this character stumbled into a saloon in mid-July and got into a fight with a “dirty, mangy dog” who’d left this character nothing but “this old guitar and an empty bottle of booze.” For 10 points, name this Shel Silverstein / Johnny Cash character whose deadbeat father gave a traditionally feminine name.

ANSWER: (a) **boy named Sue**

7. After an encounter with this character, the narrator wonders, “Shit is all over the news, bomb goes off in Central / What the fuck have I gotten myself into?” This character wants to be friends with his song’s narrator, “just like Chuckie,” which really ought to have been a red flag or something. A sequel to this character’s song features Marilyn Manson chanting a chorus about “the snake, the rat, the cat, the dog.” The influence of this fictional character might have something to do with why a certain rapper keeps getting sent to jail on firearms, drugs, animal cruelty, and assault charges. For 10 points, name this non-canine alter ego of the rapper DMX, who has a demonic name.

ANSWER: **Damien** [prompt on “DMX” because he’s stone cold but not actually hellish]

8. The narrator of a song about this character regretfully states, as an aside, “the long-term contract that I had to sign / says I’ll be making these movies till the end of time.” Live performances of that song about this character are traditionally interrupted by a steadily-growing chant which, at this point, includes exclamations like “Ohh ziggy zoggy ziggy zoggy Oi! Oi! Oi!” and “Mmmmmmmmmmm...PORK.” This character is said to live in a swamp, “where it bubbles all the time like a giant carbonated soda, S-O-D-A soda.” For 10 points, name this subject of a classic Weird Al parody, a little green wrinkled muppet-looking Star Wars character.

ANSWER: **Yoda**

9. Shirley Temple’s “This Is a Happy Little Ditty” notes of this character that it “must’ve been awful stuffy in there.” According to Paul Simon, this character was “baking a cinnamon pie” when she “fell asleep in a washing machine” and “woke up in a Hurricane Eye.” Wikipedia thinks that this character is either a metaphor for English fertility rituals or actually a reference to King George II. For 10 points, identify this nursery rhyme character who “had so many children,

she didn't know what to do."

ANSWER: the **Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe** [or common variants]

10. A fight broke out at an event dedicated to this fictional character, resulting in "shillelagh law" and a "rout and [a] ruiction." This character is killed after taking "a drop of the craythur" and subsequently getting so drunk that he "fell off a ladder and broke his skull." This man, who's described as speaking with a "brogue so rich and sweet," is then brought back to life after some liquor falls on his corpse. For 10 points, name this subject of a traditional Irish ballad about his funeral, a song which titles the final novel of James Joyce.

ANSWER: Tim **Finnegan**

11. While collecting data, this character muses "what will it affect when all is done?", and he earlier jokes "send me up a drink!" prior to his final mission. This character is described as "strung out on Heaven's high, hitting an all-time low" in a song which claims that "we know [this character]'s a junkie." This character is told that "the papers want to know whose shirt you wear" after being instructed to take his protein pills and put his helmet on. For 10 points, name this fictional astronaut who is the subject of several songs by Peter Schilling and David Bowie.

ANSWER: Major **Tom**

12. With regards to politics, this character is told that "every way you look at this, you lose" despite earlier going to the candidates' debate. It is strongly hinted that this character hides birth control or something "in [the] pantry with [the] cupcakes." The last verse of the song titled after this character laments that "Joltin' Joe has left and gone away." In the chorus, this character is repeatedly reassured that "Jesus loves you more than you will know" and that "Heaven holds a place for those who pray." For 10 points, name this character in a Simon and Garfunkel song which appears in *The Graduate*.

ANSWER: **Mrs. Robinson**

13. A scene from *It Happened One Night* features a song about this character being sung on a bus. This character's profession is identified by his whiskers, thanks to the deductive powers of Eddie Cantor. A "bill in red letters" announces this character's victory, in which he seduces a girl whom he makes "assume a masculine name" in order to take his place in the circus. The attentions of this character led another to be "betrayed by a maid in her teens." For 10 points, name this stunning yet devious circus performer, the subject of a popular song from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

ANSWER: the daring young **man on the flying trapeze** [or "Signor **Bona Slang**"; or "that Russian guy, **Rubinoff!**"]

14. In the live *Does Humor Belong in Music?* DVD, the song titled for this character is preceded by the possibly related song "He's So Gay." This guy marvels at how "women's liberation came

creeping all across the nation” shortly before he is mutilated. This “handsome son of a bitch” contemplates sexually assaulting a cheerleader before a traumatic encounter with “this dyke named Freddie.” For 10 points, name this “sexual spastic” who “goes down” in a notoriously obscene song by Frank Zappa.

ANSWER: **Bobby Brown**

15. Description acceptable. According to a music video, the only person capable of being this character is apparently Charlie Puth carrying a pizza. This character, the poor bastard, is lovingly told that “we'll never see your family more than mine.” Naturally enough, this character is ordered to “don't have a dirty mind” but is nonetheless invited to “try and rock my body right” by a girl who orders, “don't forget the flowers every anniversary.” For 10 points, identify this person who is the imminent recipient of spousal emotional abuse at the hands of the singer who performed “All About That Bass.”

ANSWER: **Meghan Trainor's Future Husband** [or obvious equivalents]

Extraneous question superseded by “Major Tom” in the finished product, based in part on my personal theory that “Tom the Piper’s Son,” “Prentice Tommy,” and “Major Tom” are memetic manifestations of the same character in the Western popular canon:

This first name is held by a nursery rhyme character who “pleased both the girls and boys” and spilled a pail of milk after making Dolly and a cow dance the Cheshire Round. A character with this first name can “refuse / To shine his angry master’s shoes,” according to an 18th century recruiting song. A more modern character bearing this name jokes “send me up a drink!” during a scientific mission. This name is shared with a musical character who is told that “the papers want to know whose shirt you wear.” Before presumably dying, a character with this name declares that “planet Earth is blue, and there’s nothing I can do.” For 10 points, give this name of a mischievous “piper’s son” and a spacefaring hero immortalized by Peter Schilling and David Bowie.

ANSWER: **Tom** [or **Thomas**; or **Tommy**; or Major **Tom**; or ‘Prentice **Tom**; or anything mentioning some variant on that name]