

RILKE (Recondite Individuals' Literary Knowledge Extravaganza)

Edited by John Lawrence

Questions by John Lawrence, Nick Jensen, Caleb Kendrick, Sameen Belal, and Alston Boyd

Playoffs Round 7

1. A woman jerking her hand away from one of these objects leaves behind a glove then worn by Monsieur de Montmorency in the *Heptameron*. A princess renounces her vow to die with tearless eyes to unite her soul with one of these objects as she clutches it. A Provençal knight's adulterous wife jumps out a window in disgust after relishing this kind of object, which the Prince of Salerno sends his daughter in a gold cup. A 500-year old man quibbles that he used a poniard like that of Ramón de Hoces to obtain one borne by a turbaned attendant under Merlin's spell. Guillaume de (*) Roussillon feeds his wife one of these objects on the *Decameron*'s fourth day, which opens with a tale in which Ghismonda drinks a poison philter while kissing one of them from her lover Guiscardo, fitting Filostrato's theme of love's unhappy ends. Don Quixote sees one of these objects preserved by salt for Belerma in an enchanted cave. For 10 points, name this object that Montesinos cuts from Durandarte.

ANSWER: human hearts [prompt on "organs" or "viscera" or "flesh" or "meat" or "cardiac muscle" or "bodies" or other clear-knowledge equivalents]

2. The protagonist of this novel teaches his girlfriend the English names of flowers on picnics during a series of joyful legal repeals. A Vatican priest arranges a Portuguese villa for this novel's protagonist after he is repeatedly demoted during a rocky relationship with Irene, who first appears drunkenly threatening to report him to the *New York Times*. The pharmacy at AMS is restocked with drugs purchased from prostitutes by this novel's narrator, who describes overcoming his aversion to a "universe... *made of shit*" where "there is no why" to explain the reason he (*) reanimates bodies by removing pills after creating them from fire. "Uncle Pepi" extracts gas from patients in Block 10's Sprinkleroom in this novel, whose narrator assumes the alias Tod Friendly to conceal his true identity, Odilo Unverdorben. For 10 points, name this novel following the life of a doctor at Auschwitz in reverse chronology, a work by Martin Amis.

ANSWER: Time's Arrow or The Nature of the Offence [accept either underlined portion]

3. Along with *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils*, this novel was cited as formative in the Nobel lecture of Kenzaburo Oe, who analyzed one character's desire for escape through the quote, "All I wanted was to go somewhere." "Fear and alarm" are what Toni Morrison remembers most about her first encounter with this novel, according to her introduction. An explanatory note prefacing this novel affirms that its characters are not "trying to talk (*) alike and not succeeding." This novel provides the title of 1948 essay on homosocial bonding in American literature by Leslie Fiedler. Ernest Hemingway said that all modern American literature comes from this novel, whose protagonist decides he'll "go to hell" while tearing up a letter to Miss Watson. For 10 points, name this dialect-rich novel whose protagonist runs away to avoid being civilized by Aunt Sally, a work by Mark Twain.

ANSWER: *The Adventures of* Huckleberry Finn

4. In response to the first chapter of this book, Henry Sidgwick claimed that what society needed was "fire and strength", a claim considered in this work's final chapter. In this work, two strains of thinking are dichotomized as strictness vs. spontaneity of consciousness. This work defines perfection as: "the growth and predominance of our humanity proper", and calls the first title entity "the study of perfection". This work claims that "the sheer desire to see things as they are" is the (*) "scientific passion" that distinguishes the first title entity from religion. This work, which distinguishes between Hellenism and Hebraism, defines its first title entity as "the best which has been thought and said in the world", and calls the lower classes, the aristocracy, and the middle classes the Populace, the Barbarians, and the Philistines. For 10 points, name this major work of social criticism by Matthew Arnold.

ANSWER: Culture and Anarchy

5. One story by this author ends with the protagonist imagining advertising executives trying to figure out the perfect place to put a sign for Spry brand shortening. While on a lecture tour in Eastern Europe, the protagonist of one of this author's stories is smitten with the title character, who claims that her poems are hard to write but not to read. This author of "The Bulgarian Poetess" wrote a story that ends with a son kissing his father on the lips and asking why the father and mother are separating, to which the father realizes he has no answer. In a series of stories including (*) "Your Lover Just Called," this author of "Toward Evening" chronicled the deterioration of the marriage of Joan and Richard Maple. The narrator of one of his stories impulsively quits his job after his boss chews out three pretty girls for wearing only bathing suits while shopping for herring snacks at the title store. For 10 points, name this creator of Henry Bech and author of "A&P".

ANSWER: John (Hoyer) Updike

6. One character in this play says: "be sure you die in a nice bitchy odor of repentance" to an old woman who was one of many townspeople who experienced sexual arousal while listening to the sounds of a murder that they did nothing to stop. In this play, one character asks for a sign, and a sacred stone lights up in response, but that character is inspired to never again obey the will of the gods. Another character in this play deliberately dumps garbage in front of the blood-smeared (*) statue of a god, so that priests will slip in the garbage. In this play, that character wears a white dress instead of a black dress for a ceremony in which she dances in front of the entrance to a cave. In this 1943 play, Zeus converses with Aegisthus shortly before the latter is murdered in a plot hatched by Electra, after which the title creatures transform into the Furies. For 10 points, name this existential adaptation of the *Oresteia* by Jean-Paul Sartre.

ANSWER: *The Flies* [or *Les mouches*]

7. A poem cycle titled for one of these people describes the "shrilly noise of puddocks' feeble wail" and "huge black beetles, revelling alone" humming a "heavy drone", and also describes a time when "The thatch-moss grows in brighter green; / And eaves in quick succession drop, / Where grinning icicles have been". A person of this type is the addressee of a poem whose speaker declares: "A honey tongue, a heart of gall / Is fancy's spring, but sorrow's fall", and describes a time when "Philomel becometh dumb". John Clare wrote a (*) "calendar" for one of these. Walter Raleigh wrote a "reply" to a poem spoken by one, who promises another person "A cap of flower, and a kirtle / Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle" in a poem that declares: "we will all the pleasures prove" that fields yield. For 10 points, the line "Come live with me and be my love" opens a poem by Christopher Marlowe spoken to his love by a "passionate" member of what profession?

ANSWER: shepherd

8. At a tense banquet, this character's food is insulted as "garbage" by a man who refuses to "listen to the voice" of his "elephant-limbed" enemy. Aloe wards off Saturn's influence from this character's ebony and sandalwood home. This character inspires the pseudonym of an Axona's handsome but sterile double, whose immunity to Dimension-fever helps him rule a city of obsessive immortals after he finds a portal to the Gorf planet Thera. A footnote to the Borges story "The Approach to al-Mu'tasim" links the *Enneads* to a pilgrimage (*) seeking this character, whose name is an anagram for a man who uses the Stone Rose with Virgil Jones to expel Nicholas Deggle from Calf Island, whither he kidnaps Bird-Dog to lure Flapping Eagle. An expedition of thirty led by a hoopoe through seven valleys realize that they are this nurse of Zal in a poem by 'Attar. For 10 points, name this Persian king of the birds.

ANSWER: the Simurgh [accept Grimus; accept variants like Simourv; accept Zumrud; accept Angha; accept Kerkés; accept Homā]

9. In a play by this author, a clairvoyant cleaning woman warns the protagonists to "Beware of Hootie Pie". One of his characters declares that horoscopes are false because Jesus was a Capricorn, and Capricorns are attracted to Virgos and Scorpions, but Jesus wasn't attracted to anybody. That character created by him holds Aloysius at gunpoint, while deliberately ignoring that he's raising his hand to ask to go to the bathroom. A woman who dresses up as Maggie Smith acting as the Wicked Queen from *Snow White* is one of the title siblings named by their parents after (*) Chekhov characters in his most recent play, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. In a play by him, Thomas is rewarded with cookies for answering catechisms posed by the title nun, who teaches dogma to the audience. For 10 points, name this American playwright, whose satires on the Catholic church include *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All for You*.

ANSWER: Christopher (Ferdinand) Durang

10. During one of these events, a group of people ask: “See you upon the horizon that small light-- / Swelling somewhat?”. One of these events titles a poem in which a character exclaims: “What’s time? Leave Now for dogs and apes / Man has Forever”. A poem about one of these instructs: “Fancy the fabric / Quite, ere you build, ere steel strike fire from quartz”. One of these events features people “Lined on the brows, scoop-eyed and bent and hoar-- / Following in files across a twilit plain”. During one of these, the speakers leave “the common crofts, the vulgar thorpes / Each in its tether”. “Being” seemed (*) “but an ear” at one of these events, during which the speaker “dropped down, and down-- / And hit a World at every plunge”, and felt people treading “till it seemed / That Sense was breaking through”. For 10 points, what kind of event did Thomas Hardy depict for God, Robert Browning depict for a grammarian, and Emily Dickinson feel in her brain?

ANSWER: funeral

11. László Krasznahorkai’s literary hero is a character with this name, who sees a drawing of a man holding a girl on a protocol that a “non-competent secretary” litters with salt and caraway seeds. A student with this name, who has no friends with whom to play New Year’s poem cards, annuls his adoption to regain funds from his original family. An “applicant” with this name refuses to go with a “gentleman” who gives him brandy from a sleigh while he waits for a man he first sees sleeping upright through a peephole at the (*) Herrenhof Inn. The grave of a monk’s son with this name is often visited by his former rival for the affections of Okusan’s daughter Ojōsan. Two identical “assistants” follow a character of this name who is appointed as a classroom janitor with his fiancée Frieda, the ex-lover of the official Klamm. For 10 points, give this shared name of Sensei’s suicidal childhood friend in *Kokoro* and the “Land-Surveyor” who navigates a village in his attempt access Kafka’s Castle.

ANSWER: K.

12. One poem by this author ends by asking the wind to “Cut the heat-- / plough through it, / turning it on either side / of your path.” This author declared: “Thoth, Hermes, the stylus / the palette, the pen, the quill endure / though our books are a floor / of smouldering ash under our feet” in a poem that interweaves descriptions of the temple of Karnak and the London Blitz. The lines “Hurl your green over us, / Cover us with your pools of fur” conclude one poem by this author, who depicted her sessions with (*) Sigmund Freud in “The Master”. She asked: “Did her eyes slant in the old way? / was she Greek or Egyptian?” about the title figure of a poem containing sections titled “Eidolon”. Her *Trilogy* includes the poems “The Flowering of the Rod” and “The Walls Do Not Fall”. For 10 points, name this poet of *Sea Garden* and *Helen in Egypt* who was, along with her husband Richard Aldington, one of the leading figures in Imagism.

ANSWER: Hilda Doolittle [accept initials, or just “Doolittle”]

13. A member of this profession quotes Gogol’s *Taras Bulba* after knocking out Merzlakov to see if he’s a “faker” in Varlam Shalamov’s *Kolyma Tales*, which features one named “Nurder” who is nicknamed “Murder.” An aspiring concert pianist whose mother reads guests her unrealistic novels tricks a flabby whist player of this profession into waiting all night in a cemetery. One member of this profession battles wolves from his sleigh after a fireman drags him from his bath into a blizzard. A man who joins this profession because his father would disown a priest cites Heine and (*) Pushkin to justify slacking off because its logical end is abandoning religion and philosophy. Members of this profession include “Pussycat” Turkin’s brief lover Startsev in “Tonych,” Mikhail and Gromov’s stroke victim “neighbor” and the morphine-addicted author of a “Country” one’s *Notebook*. For 10 points, name this profession whose practice informed the fiction of Mikhail Bulgakov and “Ward No. 6” author Anton Chekhov.

ANSWER: district doctors [accept equivalents like physicians or surgeons or general practioners or venereologists (Bulgakov’s medical specialty); accept medicine or answers about the medical profession]

14. This author wrote a poem whose speaker excoriates: “You found with all your boasted wisdom / How hard at the last it is / To keep the soul from splitting into cellular atoms”. He wrote a poem in which an abandoned game of checkers precedes a dialogue between Yogarindra, Loki, and Beelzebub. The speaker of one poem by him concludes: “Degenerate sons and daughters / Life is too strong for you-- / It takes life to love Life”. One poem by him begins: “Henry got me with (*) child, / Knowing that I could not bring forth life / Without losing my own”. The lines “Bloom forever, O Republic, / From the dust of my bosom!” is spoken by a mistress of Abraham Lincoln in a poem by him. He described a man who “babbles of the fish-fry of long ago / Of the horse-races long ago at Clary’s Grove” in the opening of one collection, which declares “All, all are sleeping on the hill”. For 10 points, name this American author of the *Spoon River Anthology*.

ANSWER: Edgar Lee Masters

15. A character who originally hails from this country mistakes an anonymous note complaining about his halitosis for a misspelling of “hallucinations”. A police force in this country is led on a wild goose chase by men who dress all in red to resemble an escaped man that the police are hunting for. The lines: “The moon is a thief / He steals his silvery light from the sun” are a mis-translation from this country’s language back into English, which cause one character from here to miss an allusion to (*) *Timon of Athens*. One character is assisted by Odon in using a secret passage connecting the palace to the Royal Theatre in order to escape a revolution in this country. While supposedly attempting to assassinate the former Charles Xavier, the last king of this country, who is in hiding in New Wye, Jakob Gradus ends up killing the poet John Shade. For 10 points, what fictional country does Charles Kinbote hail from in Nabokov’s *Pale Fire*?

ANSWER: Zembla

16. This character recalls his choice to disarm rather than kill a slave who attacks him in an abandoned mine while defining his life as an attempt to follow the philosophical zeitgeist “Humanitas, Libertas, Felicitas.” A prophetess in a woodcutter’s hut predicts cities built and burnt before the death of this character, whose wizard grandfather sees in the stars that he will rule the world. In his youth, this character receives the “bloody aspersion” from a cult he (*) forbids after the initiation of his twenty-year-old lover, whose suicide is presaged when they watch a sacrificial victim struck by lightning with his physician Hermogenes. The friendship of Plotina ensures the succession of this philhellene, who founds an Egyptian city as the center of a cult dedicated to his Bithynian lover Antinous. For 10 points, name this emperor whose *Memoirs* are recounted to Marcus Aurelius in a novel by Marguerite Yourcenar.

ANSWER: Hadrian [or Publius Aelius Hadrianus; or Caesar Traianus Hadrianus Augustus; accept Pater Patriae or Father of the Country, which he eventually stops refusing as a title]

17. An author with this first name wrote a novel in which the male love interest finally learns of the protagonist’s feelings for him, when he overhears her confessing those feelings to his kidnapped dog. The protagonist of that novel, whose author has this first name, is pursued at a masquerade ball by someone dressed as the devil, but is then rescued by someone dressed as a white domino. A character with this first name falls in love with Charles, who is kidnapped by his own father and sent to the South Seas. That character with this first name (*) masturbates for the first time while watching the pimp Mrs. Brown have sex with a customer, before herself becoming a prostitute in Mrs. Cole’s brothel. An author with this name created a heroine who rejects Sir Robert Floyer in order to marry Mortimer Delville. For 10 points, name this first name of John Cleland’s most famous title character and of the author of *Cecilia*, a certain Ms. Burney.

ANSWER: Fanny [or Frances]

18. A couple of “sympathizers” in this novel scope out a furtive network of “progressives” with an expelled Naval cadet’s brother “Superbrain,” who disappoints his family by studying Literature at the non-Catholic university. A high-risk pregnancy strikes a former maid in this novel as she monitors the scam business *Limbo Coffins*. In this novel, that character’s Chinha-born husband gives rides for Morales Transportation in the stolen bus *Jungle Flash* after they move to the nowhere town (*) Pucallpa in the fallout over him being forced to have sex with his employer “the fairy.” In this novel, disgust with his childhood friend Cayo “Shithead” Bermúdez motivates a chauffeur to murder the nightclub singer Hortensia “the Muse” to stop her from blackmailing “Gold Ball” Don Fermín, whose son “Skinny” writes for *La Crónica*. For 10 points, name this total novel of the Odría regime spiraling from Ambrosio and Santiago’s reunion in a Lima dive bar, a work by Mario Vargas Llosa.

ANSWER: Conversation in the Cathedral [or Conversación en la Catedral]

19. This author created a character who explains away the gash in his cheek by claiming that he fell onto the sharp corner of a stove. This author created another character who describes how in a feverish delirium he had confused the title character with a swan on his uncle's estate he named Tinka. In a play by this author, a character lies that his cat had a litter of kittens in his wig, in order to explain his baldness. In another work, it is realized that the groom Leopardo had been put up to feigning responsibility for the central action after a different man responds to the title character's (*) advertisement seeking to find the father of her unborn child. In one play by him, Ruprecht's conscription papers are fabricated as part of an attempt to seduce Eve by Judge Adam, who is exposed as responsible for the destruction of the title object. For 10 points, name this German author of *The Broken Jug* and "The Marquise of O--."

ANSWER: Heinrich von Kleist

20. A place in this country names a play in which one character claims to have been "1.93 years younger than the century" the first time he met another character. A character in this country shoots a colleague with a cap pistol to prove that it is not always faster to act than react, in a play in which a character who repeatedly asks what things mean "in plain language" contrasts with a character who has the motto: "If something works it works". A character in this country imagines what it is like to be alive in a (*) coffin thinking: "well, at least I'm not dead!" In this country, a boy named Alfred is made to put on a skirt to portray the Sabine Women by the leader of a pack of Tragedians. A city in this country titles a Michael Frayn play about a meeting between Werner Heisenberg and Niels Bohr. For 10 points, name this country that is the setting for Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*.

ANSWER: Kingdom of Denmark