

20 Tossups

1. A poem by this author describes the “fetish face beneath French parasols / of brass and orange velvet” possessed by King Anthracite. One of his poems begins with the string of verbs, “Runs falls rises stumbles on from darkness to darkness,” and describes a wanted poster of a woman who turns her pistol on the speaker, saying “dead folks can’t jaybird talk... you keep on going now or die.” In two poems, this author, who studied under (*) Auden at the University of Michigan, adopted the perspective of a slave on the Underground Railroad and of a Spaniard aboard the *Amistad*. The speaker of his most famous poem asks “What did I know, What did I know / of love’s austere and lonely offices?,” humbled by his father getting up early to work on the day of rest. For 10 points, name this black poet of “Runagate Runagate,” “Middle Passage,” and “Those Winter Sundays.”
ANSWER: Robert **Hayden**

2. The protagonists of a story by this author hide alcohol-filled chocolates in a box of maraschino cherries, and have sex atop a bearskin after returning home from the opera. In another of this author’s stories, an unnamed principessa is alarmed by the sound of a kid’s whooping cough, resulting in the expulsion of a family from a hotel, and one of the title characters points to his cheek to signal a man to kiss it. This author scandalized society with a story about the incestuous relationship between the twin brother and sister (*) Siegmund and Sieglinde in his story “Blood of the Walsungs.” A crowd mobs a chocolate and biscotti vendor after he fatally shoots a sinister street hypnotist named Cipolla in another story by this author. For 10 points, name this German author whose “Mario and the Magician” is often collected along with *Death in Venice*.
ANSWER: [Paul] Thomas **Mann**

3. The fourth act of this play contains a lengthy exchange in broken Latin over whether or not a fool is a rational animal. One character in this play pays a hundred pounds in advance, and promises installments of a hundred more each after pregnancy, bed rest, and childbirth, for almond milk passed off as “fertility water.” One character in this play marries a supposed heiress of nineteen mountains, shortly before a funeral service where another couple spring up out of their (*) coffins to be wed. A man in this play seduces Lady Kix and tricks a goldsmith into making a wedding ring intended for the goldsmith’s daughter, the title character. In this play, Allwit is cuckolded by the opportunistic debtor Sir Walter Whorehound, whose intended bride ends up with Touchwood Junior. For 10 points, name this Thomas Middleton play about Moll Yellowhammer.
ANSWER: A **Chaste Maid in Cheapside**

4. One character in this collection quips “I don’t really recall whether we committed suicide that night.” A woman in this collection drapes her mirrors because she sees the speaker’s reflection in them instead of her own. This collection contains poems such as “On Beginning the Study of Anglo-Saxon Grammar,” as well as stories such as “A Dialog About a Dialog.” This collection, which is dedicated to its author’s countryman Leopoldo Lugones, contains a piece which states “I let myself live so that” the title (*) author “may write his literature,” and ends “I do not know which of the two is writing this piece.” The title piece in this collection recounts the author’s childhood worship of a striped, Asiatic creature which is not to be confused with the jaguar. For 10 points, name this collection that contains “Borges and I,” a set of sketches by Borges titled for a vision of an animal.
ANSWER: **Dreamtigers** [or *El hacedor*; or *The Maker*]

5. In introducing himself, the narrator of this story goes on a brief digression explaining that it’s folly to presume that he had no past life. The narrator of this story is preoccupied with an unintelligible sentence from Tertullian’s *de Carne Christi*, and exclaims, in French, that the central objects were merely “ideas! Ideas!” A passage ending with the narrator leaving an apartment with “triple horror, and mystery, and death” was removed after terrified readers complained to the editors of the (*) *Southern Literary Messenger*. This story ends with the narrator, who is named Egeus, waking from a dream to find himself in a library, then using a spade to force open an ivory box that contains dental instruments and the blood-stained, ever-present thirty two ivory teeth. For 10 points, name this violent horror story by Poe, whose narrator marries his epileptic cousin.
ANSWER: **Berenice**

6. This author considered supernatural fiction, such as epics and allegories, to be weaker than the historical and natural fiction, in a division specified in the piece “Essay on Fictions.” Felicia Hemans wrote a lyrical poem about an episode in one of this author’s novels, in which a poet skilled at improvisation is crowned with laurel at the Capitol. This author distilled her careful study of German literature and philosophy into the appropriately-titled book *Germany after she was* (*) banished from Paris for opposing Napoleon. Oswald ends up marrying Lucille, the half-sister of the title Italian poetess, in a novel by this author that was vigorously defended by her lover Benjamin Constant. This daughter of Jacques Necker maintained a thriving salon in the 1790s. For 10 points, name this French Enlightenment woman of letters who wrote the novels *Delphine* and *Corinne*.
ANSWER: Madame de Staël [or Anne Louise Germaine de Staël-Holstein; or Anne Louise Germaine Necker until mentioned]

7. The speaker of one poem says of this creature, “maybe it throbs in a myrtle’s green,” and instructs the faeries to “go and find / That tiny pinch of priceless dust” that “inspired a bard to win / Ecstatic heights in thought and rhyme.” That poem is titled for this creature, begins “somewhere afield here something lies / In Earth’s oblivious eyeless trust,” and is by Thomas Hardy. Another poem contains of a list of similes comparing this creature to a “rose embower’d / In its own green leaves,” a (*) “glow-worm golden / In a dell of dew,” and to a “high-born maiden / In a palace tower.” This creature is asked to “teach me half the gladness / that thy brain must know” in that poem, in which it travels “higher still and higher / From the earth,” producing “profuse strains of unpremeditated art.” For 10 points, name this creature that is told “Hail to thee, blithe spirit” in a poem by Shelley.
ANSWER: Shelley’s skylark [both of the Shelley poems are about the same skylark]

8. In a play by this author, a man asks for his valuable English mirror to be brought so he can check if he’s growing grey hair, and an admiral goes on about the beautiful girls he saw when his fleet was stationed in Sicily, where they speak French. This author’s bitter dialogue “Leaving the Theater After the Presentation of a New Comedy” stars the guffawing audience members at the premiere of his most famous play, which ends with its characters suddenly freezing in terror. A man whose name translates to “egg” or “omelette” courts (*) Agafya in this author’s play *Marriage*. The servant Osip procures a carriage and beats a hasty retreat with his master in a play by this author, in which Bobchinsky and Dobchinsky travel to an inn with the mayor of an unnamed town. For 10 points, name this Russian author who wrote about Khlestakov’s deception in *The Inspector General*.
ANSWER: Nikolai [Vasilievich] Gogol

9. **Description acceptable.** One poem in this genre states that the truth “of the future, present, and past... can be found at the tip of my stick,” and was supposedly delivered between two taps on the ground with said stick. Another of these poems begins with the words “inhale, exhale,” and describes how arrows “meet midway and slice / The void in aimless flight.” A poem ending “my dream goes wandering / over a field of dried grass” is inaccurately considered to be (*) Basho’s foray into this genre. The earliest-attested one was written by the seventh century Prince Otsu. A poem of this type that reads “A small night storm blows / Saying ‘falling is the essence of the flower’ / Preceding those who hesitate,” was written by Yukio Mishima in November 1970. For 10 points, name this genre of Japanese poetry, also known as jisei, written by people who probably didn’t compose anything else afterwards.
ANSWER: death poems [or jisei before mentioned; or descriptive answers suggesting these are poems people wrote just before they died; or farewell poems; or adios poems; or we out poems; the funnier and more flippant about death the answer, the better]

10. One character in this novel salivates at the sight of a gifted hen, but only roasts and eats a single feather off its body. This novel is set in a place where “murder is as soundless as a spout of blood, as regular and rhythmic as sleep.” A decapitated head in this novel begs to be let out of a trunk. A raven in this novel constantly warns, “Turn again, my bonny, Turn away home.” Its antagonist gives a girl a recipe to remove the (*) berry juice stains from her lover’s face. This novel opens with its male protagonists becoming fast friends at an inn where they outwit the mythical Mike Fink, and it then transitions to the enmity between Rosamond and her evil stepmother Salome, which splits the loyalties of one of those men, Clement Musgrove. For 10 points, name this novel starring the bandit Jamie Lockhart, a satiric adaptation of a Brothers Grimm fairy tale set in Louisiana, by Eudora Welty.
ANSWER: *The Robber Bridegroom*

11. Upon hearing the orgasm of a character in this novel, a parish priest utters the words “magnificat, stabat, pange lingua, dies irae, benedictus, kyrie eleison, angelica.” A character in this novel quotes Rimbaud in his televised speech expressing his desire to “conquer the splendid city that will give light... to all men.” A love-struck barmaid in this novel responds to her mother’s inquiry “What did he say to you?” with the single word “metaphors.” This novel ends with the arrest and (*) disappearance of its protagonist for his suspicious affiliation with a recently-crowned Nobel Laureate. Michael Radford’s popular film adaptation of this novel shifted its setting to an island in Italy and changed the title from *Burning Patience*. For 10 points, name this novel about the relationship between Pablo Neruda and Mario Jimenez, the title mail-carrier, written by Antonio Skarmeta.
ANSWER: *The Postman* [or *Il Postino*; or *El Cartero de Neruda*; accept *Burning Patience* before it’s mentioned; accept *Ardiente paciencia* before it’s mentioned]

12. This poem contains the maxim “He that forbears / To suit and serve his need, Deserves his load.” This poem’s speaker asks “What have I lost with cordial fruit?,” realizing that “there was wine / Before my sighs did dry it; there was corn / Before my tears did drown it.” Its speaker deliriously rambles that “my lines and life are free, free as the road, Loose as the wind, as large as store,” then grows self-conscious as he “raved and grew more fierce and wild.” The speaker ends this poem by saying, (*) “methought I heard one calling, *Child!* And I replied *My Lord*,” dissipating the palpable fury he displays at this poem’s beginning by pounding the altar and declaring “No more; I will abroad!” For 10 points, name this metaphysical poem, which likens the constraints of the priestly vocation to the title shackles worn by a slave, written by George Herbert.
ANSWER: “The Collar”

13. Near the end of this novel, one of its major characters tears his pant leg while undertaking his ritual climb up a drainpipe to have sex with his lover. In his first flight after the death of his pilot sister, the protagonist of this novel cakes the plane with his vomit. Nearly every character in this novel delights in eating Filipino-style Chinese donuts at the Pearl of Manila. The protagonist of this novel investigates a conspiracy to blow up the Dome of the Rock, soon after being rescued from prison by Willie Dick, his old vulgar (*) Tlingit buddy. In this novel, Hertz Shemetz, the father of Berko, is revealed to have left a cardboard chessboard next to the body of his victim, a man calling himself Emmanuel Lasker. For 10 points, name this alternative historical novel set in the predominantly-Jewish town of Sitka, Alaska, starring detective Meyer Landsman and written by Michael Chabon.
ANSWER: *The Yiddish Policemen’s Union*

14. After abandoning symbolism, this author illustrated his new ethos with a poem beginning “intelligence, give me / the exact name of things!” He employed the unusual image of a “blind bee of bitter things” in his apostrophe to God, titled “Return for an Instant.” This author’s quotation “If they give you ruled paper, write the other way” is the epigraph to *Fahrenheit 451*. The priest Don Jose throws stones to protect his orchard from children in a prose poem by this author that begins by describing the title creature’s (*) skin, which is so soft it might be made of cotton. This poet went into exile with his wife, the Tagore translator Zenobia Camprubi, after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. He rhapsodized about his native Andalusia in his prose poem about a writer’s travels with his donkey. For 10 points, name this Spanish poet best known for *Platero y yo*.
ANSWER: Juan Ramón Jiménez [Mantecón]

15. The author of this poem wrote a sequel that promises that the reader shall “know how sublime a thing it is / To suffer and be strong,” and states “within my breast there is no light / But the cold light of stars.” This poem contains a huge diss against “dumb, driven cattle” in a bivouac doubling as a battlefield. A parody of this poem contains the fantastic line “‘Egg thou art, and egg remainest’/ Was not spoken of the hen.” A hypothetical “forlorn and shipwrecked brother” in this poem will be encouraged by the presence of (*) “footsteps on the sands of time.” The speaker of this poem begins “tell me not in mournful numbers” that its subject “is but an empty dream,” shortly before yelling “life is real! life is earnest!” For 10 points, name this nauseatingly-affirmatory poem that evokes a widely-sung book of the Old Testament, written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.
ANSWER: “A Psalm of Life”

16. A woman who works in this place reveals that little children have never cried here. A woman who crochets a white shawl in this place at the opening of the play later says “Now it is out of sight, let it be out of mind too,” after tossing scraps of a slanderous newspaper into a stove here. This place is twice visited by a “deposed monarch” who requests a loan of “one or two cast-off ideals,” named Ulrik Brendel. This place has been haunted by the (*) White Horse ever since the suicide of Beata. The housekeeper of this place, Mrs. Helseth, screams as its final two inhabitants end their lives by jumping into a mill-race. Kroll attempts to shame a woman who lives here for her free-thinking societal views. For 10 points, name this manor where the unmarried Rebecca West cohabitates with Jacob, the namesake former clergyman, the title location of a play by Ibsen.

ANSWER: Rosmersholm

17. Near the end of the novel, this character is told that a boy can be up to “four potential people, but a man is only one,” since he murders the others. He pretends to be a “patriotic citizen” concerned about un-American communist beliefs in his letter defaming Irwin Shubert. This character advances from selling comic book porn to collaborating with Friar on an avant-garde documentary about (*) bar mitzvahs. This character’s belief in his grandfather’s dictum that “a man without land is nobody” drives him to a level of ruthlessness that alienates his epileptic employee Virgil and his lover Yvette. He experiences a nervous breakdown after the death of his Uncle Benjy, who had provided him with the title training in the clothing business. For 10 points, name this tycoon who grew up a poor Jewish kid in Montreal, the protagonist of a Mordecai Richler novel about his “apprenticeship.”

ANSWER: Duddy Kravitz [accept either name; accept Duddel Kravitz]

18. This character is beaten to a business opportunity by the wholesaler Lupus. In a dream sequence, this character tries to hang himself to avoid appearing guilty of a crime, but the rope is too weak to support his weight. This character is urinated upon by two women who choose not to murder him, since he might be around to bury his friend, whom he ran into at a bathhouse after failing to buy cheese at a market. Although this character bolts the door and wedges his bed against the hinges, his house is still broken into by Panthia and Meroe. This character is being berated by a fellow traveler in Thessaly for (*) telling tall tales, until Lucius intervenes and promises this man a free lunch if he recounts from the beginning the sordid story of how the heart of his friend Socrates was replaced by a sponge. For 10 points, name this first storyteller in *The Golden Ass*.

ANSWER: Aristomenes

19. A woman in a novel by this author is asked to list the ways that a man is perfect, but she can only come up with “you are a perfect judge of sauces,” and is revealed to be the biological daughter of an inmate at a French prison who traded identities with Maurice Christian. An employer hires a man on the condition that he practice his handwriting every day in another of this author’s novels, whose prelude intimates that its protagonist will end up just like (*) Saint Theresa. The title character of one of her novels is wrongly accused of killing a constable at a riot that breaks out at an election lost by Harold Transome. Mr. Featherstone’s early death leads to the ruination of Fred Vincy, and the protagonist isn’t allowed to help with *The Key to All Mythologies*, in another novel by this author. For 10 points, name this author of *Felix Holt* and *Middlemarch*.

ANSWER: George Eliot [or Mary Ann Evans]

20. The narrator of this novel turns to the audience and says “we are all conscious of our own wrong-doing” after a husband yells “You loathe me!” to his devastated wife; that adulterous husband is said to illustrate “the modern parable of the Prodigal Father.” An artist in this novel instructs a model to pose in the manner of Delilah cutting Samson’s hair. A couple in this novel is poisoned with a rare Brazilian toxin by the enigmatic Baron Montes. In this novel, whose “introduction” lasts nearly 150 pages, news that a man (*) embezzled funds from his War Department outpost in Algiers leads to the death of that man’s brother, the Marshall, and the Polish sculptor Wenceslas Steinbock torments the title accomplice of Valerie by marrying Hortense. For 10 points, name this novel about a spinster’s scheme to ruin the Hulot family, part of Balzac’s *Human Comedy*.

ANSWER: *La* Cousine Bette