

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 5

1. In one play, a housewife reminisces about doing this action at “The Wop’s” before he and his garden are burned down by The Mystic Crew. One man complains that this action is spoiled by a woman who sounds like she’s “[warning] somebody that the house was on fire”, by imploring him to put on his Shantung silk suit from Rome. After a hotel proprietress encourages an elderly poet to do this, she grapples with a man over a cart as onlookers shout in German. A woman tells her husband that she was “plainly mistaken” that men lose their (*) looks from this action, which that husband quit sports announcing to pursue, until he hears a “click” in his head. In order to “make the lie true” by conceiving a child, a cabinet full of things for this action is emptied by Maggie the Cat. For 10 points, name this favorite pastime of Reverend Shannon, Brick Pollitt and other Tennessee Williams characters drowning their sorrows.

ANSWER: drinking alcohol [accept alcoholism or imbibing spirits/liquor/red wine/beer/rum-cocos or any other clear-knowledge equivalents]

2. A spy who works in this country as a film distributor contemplates Magritte’s *Empire of Lights* while waiting for a boat heralded by an emailed Bashō haiku. A captain in this country’s army interviews a tubercular minister who dishonestly claims that his betrayal led to the execution of 12 colleagues. An author from this country who recently admitted to plagiarizing Yukio Mishima wrote a novel ending with a writer buying a rosary at the Vatican to honor an illiterate mother of four who disappears at a train station in the capital. After his lover turns away and goes, the speaker of a poem from here gathers an armful of flowers to scatter on the way. The speaker repeats, “Transformed into (*) arrows / let’s all go, body and soul!” in a poem by a former monk from this home country of *Please Look After Mom*, where another author took the rhythm of his poem “Azaleas” from the folk song “Arirang.” For 10 points, name this home country of Kyung-sook Shin, Ko Un and Kim Sowol.

ANSWER: South Korea [or Republic of Korea; or ROK; or Daehan Minguk; accept Korean Empire or Daehan Jaeguk]

(The first two novels are Kim young-ha’s *Your Republic is Calling You* and Richard Kim’s Camus-inspired *The Martyred*)

3. The narrator of this book imagines the predicament of 16th-century noblemen who kept accidentally walking in on Henry VIII making out with Anne Boleyn. In one scene in this book, characters laugh uproariously through what they were told was the funniest German song ever written, only to find out that they have offended the singer, because it’s actually the *saddest* German song ever written. The protagonists of this book injure themselves while beating the hell out of a can of pineapple to try to open it without a can-opener. This book opens with the narrator reading a (*) medical dictionary and discovering that he has every illness except for housemaid’s knee. Its sequel is about a cycling tour in Germany and is titled for its protagonists “on the Bummel”. For 10 points, name this comic novel in which the dog Montmorency accompanies George, Harris, and the narrator on a vacation on the Thames, by Jerome K. Jerome.

ANSWER: Three Men in a Boat (*To Say Nothing of the Dog*)

4. This figure “didn’t intend to speak” “(as though we cared!)” because he is “terrified of our martyrs” according to a poem that ends with him becoming “dirt to be swept away” after being “burned to nothing.” A “wave-girt” island “greatly [fears] in heart and spirit” that it will be inhabited by “black seals” and “many-footed creatures of the sea” after being deserted by this “far-working” figure, who “like a star at noonday” “leaped from the ship” he guides to “far-seen Crisa, land of vines.” Telphusa warns that noisy chariots will hinder men bringing “perfect (*) hecatombs” to this figure, who is depicted by an object that “from all the borders of itself / [bursts] like a star.” The name of the paean genre derives from an epithet of this figure, whose Homeric Hymn was likely written by Cynaethus of Chios. “We cannot know his legendary head / with eyes like ripening fruit” according to a poem ending, “You must change your life.” For 10 points, name this Greek god whose “archaic torso” inspired a Rilke poem.

ANSWER: Delian/Pythian Apollo [accept Phoebus Apollo; accept epithets like Far-Shooter or Hail-Healer] (The leadin is from C. P. Cavafy’s “On the Outskirts of Antioch.”)

5. An author with this last name wrote a poem that ends: “bury me not in a land of slaves”. In a novel by an author with this surname, a woman sings a hymn beginning with the words “Dropping souls no longer grieve / Heaven is propitious” to a man who then realizes that she is his niece. That author created the racist Dr. Gresham, whose marriage proposal is rejected by the title half-black nurse during the Civil War. In a novel by an author who publishes under this first name, a sheriff declares that a man who tried to stab a girl dressed in a (*) ham costume died from falling on his knife. This is the last name of the author of *Iola Leroy*. An author who uses this first name wrote the recent novel *Go Set a Watchman* and created a black man whose arm was mangled in a cotton gin and who is accused of raping Mayella Ewell. For 10 points, give the first name used by the creator of Scout and Atticus Finch.

ANSWER: Harper

6. This character goes up to an armchair and eats stale cakes to apologize for attacking a hooded man who incites his jealousy with weekly 2:30-4:30 visits. The “startled eyes of hazel bland” of this cologne-hating character shine light on “a curtained room / Where no sunbeam brake the gloom.” A visit to Pisa stirs acceptance of top-knots in this “loving fellow-creature,” even though he feels aristocratic for drinking from the purple jar that he drains three times after escaping a room full of parrots in a Whitechapel rookery where he is ransomed by Mr. (*) Taylor. Numerous scent-fueled love affairs are pursued from the open doors of Casa Guidi by this character, whose “head as hairy as Faunus” dries the tears of the author whose back bedroom he inhabits after leaving the Mitfords for Wimpole Street. For 10 points, name this pet of the author of *Aurora Leigh*, the subject of a parodic biography by Virginia Woolf.

ANSWER: Flush [accept Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s spaniel or Mrs. Barrett’s spaniel; accept any answers referring to a (cocker) spaniel, dog, canine, pet, or clear-knowledge equivalent animal owned by Elizabeth Barrett Browning]

7. These people are compared to “sweet-honeyed tamarind pods / That will burst in tomorrow’s sun” in an Albert Wendt poem. A Gioconda Belli speaker who “[fears] the blood that fuels our love / does not belong to us” reads the poems of these people, who “[pendulate] from zenith to nadir” “behind that membrane” in a César Vallejo poem. The speaker implores these people to “Defend the roofs of Paris in this dominical fog” in a Senghor poem. They title an essay claiming “vomiting increases the appetite; the orgy, sterile in itself, renews the fertility of the mother of the (*) earth.” In a Nâzim Hikmet poem, a child from Hiroshima “[comes] and [knocks] on every door” because he is one of these people, who title an essay on fiestas from *The Labyrinth of Solitude*. These people “come back and savor us” after their thirst is quenched by “sal y agua on this altar” in a poem by Sandra Cisneros, who honored her mother as one at the Smithsonian with an *ofrenda*. For 10 points, name these dedicatees of Día de los muertos.

ANSWER: the dead [accept los muertos before mentioned; accept the deceased or other synonyms; accept ancestors or forefathers or other equivalents about dead relatives (and antiprompt on “mothers” or “grandfathers” or other specific relatives)]

8. After this character’s niece discovers Dickens, he recalls being caught sobbing in sympathy while hiding in a corner to hear *David Copperfield* past his bedtime. In Rome, a Danish sculptor who dreams of creating a “world city” sells a bust to this character, who dumps a huge pile of clothes left by his estranged friend’s suicide into the Venetian lagoon. Lord Kessler shows a picture of this resident of Lamb House in Rye to Nick Guest, who is writing his doctoral thesis on this character’s “style” in *The (*) Line of Beauty*. Constance Fenimore Woolson has a tumultuous friendship with this fellow expatriate writer in one novel. His poor sales are contrasted with George du Maurier’s fame in David Lodge’s novel *Author, Author*. In another work, the premiere of Oscar Wilde’s *An Ideal Husband* overshadows the disastrous opening of this character’s play *Guy Domville*. For 10 points, name this protagonist of Colm Tóibín’s *The Master*.

ANSWER: Henry James [accept either; accept The Master before mentioned]

9. One of this author's poems declares: "Sweet is the Cypress, but his rind is tough / Sweet is the nut, but bitter is his pill". In one poem, he says that his beloved's bosom smells like "a Strawberry bed" when comparing the scent of her kiss to a garden. In another poem, he looks into his beloved's eyes and sees that "Legions of loves with little wings did fly / Darting their deadly arrows fiery bright". One of his poems addresses the "Nymphs of Mulla which with careful heed, / The silver scaly trouts do tend full well". Lord Byron's (*) *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* employs a stanza form named for this author, which involves eight lines of iambic pentameter followed by one alexandrine line. He wrote a marriage ode for Elizabeth Boyle that is paired with a collection whose pages he addresses by saying: "Happy ye leaves when as those lily hands" handle them. For 10 points, name this English author of the *Epithalamion* and the sonnet sequence *Amoretti*.

ANSWER: Edmund Spenser

10. This family's mantelpiece is decorated with a green metal serpent amid photos that only show one member naked, shaming him when he dusts them on Saturdays. Two children of this family help their friend choose a gold butterfly for his girlfriend on a Fourth of July Hudson River boat trip. One member of this family is called a "pretty man" by a servant working for the same house, who comes late to church with her mother following his invitation. Another member of this family imagines suffering "perils" in the darkness before seeing a (*) city "way up in the middle of the air." After his mistress demands money to raise their child in Chicago, one member of this family steals it from his barren first wife Deborah. The murdered Roy is the eldest son of this family's patriarch Gabriel, who is the deacon for a church of "saints" where its illegitimate member John is "saved" in a vision on "the threshing-floor." For 10 points, name this Harlem house divided from *Go Tell It On the Mountain*.

ANSWER: Grimes family

11. The concluding section of this poem describes a child as a "fairy thing with red round cheeks" and a "limber elf". One figure in this poem is described as having "gems entangled in her hair" and "unsandl'd" "blue-veined feet", when she first appears. That character in this poem drinks a cordial wine that was made from wild flowers by another character's dead mother. In this poem, one character tells a dream about an herb-green snake coiling around the neck of a dove. The line: "A sight to (*) dream of, not to tell!" is used to describe a mark on one character's breast, which is revealed when she undresses before sharing a bed with this poem's title character. The bard Bracy serves the title character's father, Sir Leoline, who agrees to come to the aid of a woman who was found wandering in the woods. For 10 points, the title woman is enchanted by the lesbian vampire Geraldine in what unfinished poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge?

ANSWER: "Christabel"

12. One critic called a work with this title its author's "first dramatized confession." The monkfish-hating protagonist of a digressive novel with this title asks "common sense" if it invented the atomic bomb and fails to break up with a bank clerk as they discuss chaos over coffee after he hides a list of names from *The Race Is to the Swift*. In a work with this title, the protagonist is charged for eleven pies despite only eating one and earlier loses his galoshes fleeing from social humiliation for attempting to dance the polka with the birthday girl at a party he snuck into via the back stairs. The history teacher (*) Tertuliano Máximo Afonso becomes obsessed with the actor António Claro in a novel that shares this title with one in which the titular councillor Yakov Petrovich Golyadkin is usurped by his "junior." For 10 points, give this shared English title of novels about doppelgängers by José Saramago and Fyodor Dostoevsky.

ANSWER: *The Double* [accept *Dvoynik* or *O Homem Duplicado* at any point, don't be pedantic; accept other translations like *The Duplicated Man*]

13. This substance's power as a "friend-maker" backfires when a bullied child joins a gang after it is tucked into his turban by an immortal shopkeeper who faces a trial by Shampati's Fire. A Victoria Academy outcast who lives in a ritzy neighborhood named for this substance forgets Principal Black Tie's poems after a fight with his boyfriend. A character named for this substance uploads a 16-part document describing a vet watching a lieutenant beat a Chinese ballplayer to death in Manchukuo. After being sent home to find his father's wallet on a winter's night, a boy is bewitched by a desire to visit exotic (*) shops named for this substance in Drogobych. In *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, a mute telepath is named for this substance, which matches the skin of a beautiful migrant worker who uses it to flavor her Bahian recipes after moving to Ilheus. For 10 points, what is the second title spice of a Jorge Amado novel named for Gabriela?
ANSWER: cinnamon [accept dalchili; accept cynamonowe; accept shinamon; accept canela; accept Cinnamomum spp; accept Chinese cassia prompt on "bark" or "spice(s)" or "laurel(s)" or "plant(s)" or other less specific answers]

14. During this event, the narrator suggests that one set of people resembles a group of passengers on a streetcar examining the newest arrival. Shortly before this event, the protagonist reads about a Czech man who returns to his village and is beaten to death with a hammer and robbed by his mother and sister, who don't recognize him. In the days leading up to this event, the protagonist meets with a man who brandishes a silver crucifix in his face, and calls him "Mr. (*) Antichrist". People at this event focus on the fact that the protagonist had attended a comedy film by Fernandel after another event, during which he drank a cup of coffee and smoked a cigarette next to a dead body, without ever crying. This event centers on the lack of grief shown by the protagonist during his mother's funeral, though it is ostensibly about shooting an Arab man. For 10 points, name this event, the prosecution for murder of the protagonist of Camus' *The Stranger*.
ANSWER: Meursault's trial for murder [accept obvious equivalents for "trial"; accept trial from The Stranger, before mentioned; accept L'etranger or The Outsider, in place of *The Stranger*]

15. This condition afflicts a man who perfects his concentration to catch cicadas with a sticky pole in the *Zhuangzi*. A character with this condition is banished by a black cat that turns into a buffalo after his rival distributes sequins from a purse. In the *Panchatantra*, a sufferer is healed after he removes a woman's third breast. Liu Zongyuan inspired a gardener with this condition who saves Liu from Du Bao's flogging in *The Peony Pavilion*. A fairy and a djinni help Bedreddin Hassan marry a vizier's daughter by usurping a (*) bridegroom who shares this condition with a woman whose ornaments scatter when she is dragged by Shatrughna. A "corpse" with this condition sets off stories from a Jewish doctor, Christian merchant and barber's six brothers after choking on a tailor's wife's fishbone in the *1001 Nights*. Kaikeyi gives a jewel to a sufferer who convinces her to exile her stepson and enthrone Bharata. For 10 points, name this condition that deforms the evil maid Manthara in the *Ramayana*.
ANSWER: having a hunchback or humped back [or hyperkyphosis; prompt on "spinal deformities" or clear-knowledge equivalents before mentioned; prompt on "being hideous" or other answers related to "ugliness"; prompt on "dwarfism" or equivalents]

16. In one story by this author, a servant fights for the right to sweep with one of the two child assistants of a linen factory worker, who contemplates purchasing a dog as he arrives home to discover two menacing bouncing balls. At the end of a story by him, the narrator is told he may hear only ambiguous remarks from "supporters" in a tea house near a grave whose occupant is foretold to rise again and lead his adherents. A character who withholds her "gift" of grace notes to get off work insists that her singing is not (*) "piping" in a story by this author, who revealed in a letter that one of his own flawed stories is represented by each of his title "Eleven Sons." In a story by this author of "Blumfeld, an Elderly Bachelor," a soldier complains about the new Commandant while showing off a machine with components called the Bed and the Harrow, which inscribes the words "Be Just" on the victims it kills. For 10 points, name this author of "Josephine the Singer" and "In the Penal Colony."
ANSWER: Franz Kafka

17. This is the first title noun of a book whose protagonist is wrongly told by a fortune teller that a rich foreigner named Hans will love her. That book with this first title noun has a protagonist who is repeatedly called a “northeastern girl” by the narrator, and who wakes up every morning and thinks “I’m a typist and a virgin, and I like coca-cola”, until she is run over by a yellow Mercedes. This is the last title word of a story whose protagonist repeatedly whispers “Free! Body and soul free!” while her sister Josephine begs her to open the door and claims that she will make herself ill. This (*) period of time names a book in which Olimpico has a short-lived romance with Maceba. That book by Clarice Lispector is titled for this “of the Star”. After being told that her husband was killed in a train accident, Louise Mallard has a heart attack when he walks through the door in, for 10 points, a Kate Chopin story titled for what period of time?

ANSWER: hour [or hora]

18. The speaker of this poem recalls: “The statue / of Colleoni’s horse / with the thickset little man / on top” that “comes persistently” to his mind. One book of this poem opens by declaring that: “All appears / as if seen / wavering through water” when “Approaching death”. The speaker of this poem says that there is something urgent he has to say, “But it must wait / While I drink in / the joy of your approach / perhaps for the last time”. This poem declares: “It is difficult / to get the news from poems / yet men die miserably every day / for lack / of what is found there”. This poem is written in the (*) triadic-line form that the poet employed throughout the collection *Journey to Love*, in which it was included. This poem—which was written as an attempt to win back the poet’s wife, Flossie—describes something that is “like a buttercup / upon its branching stem”, except for its color. For 10 points, name this long poem about a certain flower by William Carlos Williams. ANSWER: “Asphodel, That Greeny Flower”

19. A dying character describes all members of this profession as hypocrites by imagining an endless string of rancid sausages falling to the ground. In a play that ends with a member of this profession walking through an enormous door at the rear of the stage, Elena falls down an elevator shaft after a search of the archives. While fulfilling his dream of impersonating this profession, a “comma, Visiting Professor” recreates the midnight “raptus” that allegedly seized an interrogated railwayman. (*) Ludvi-Pol’s apparent suicide prompts Erzi to search for a “leper” among this profession’s members Maveri, Bata, Vanan, Croz and Cust in an Ugo Betti play. In another play, the Maniac disguises himself as a member of this profession to investigate an accused bomber’s jumping out Inspector Bertozzo’s window. For 10 points, name this profession that collaborates with the police by adjourning a dead anarchist’s inquest.

ANSWER: high court judges [accept judiciary or magistrates or other equivalents; prompt on generic answers about the legal profession or lawyers]

20. One of this author’s essays begins by citing Charles Dickens’ claim that William Godwin wrote *Caleb Williams* backwards. This author divided the mind into Pure Intellect, Moral Sense, and Taste, and argued that literature should appeal only to the last of these, in an essay that declares that the mistaken belief that “Poetry is Truth” leads to “the heresy of the *Didactic*”. He argued that works that have to be read in more than one sitting lack “unity of impression” in an essay that claims that the death of a beautiful (*) woman “is unquestionably the most poetical topic in the world”. This man succeeded Thomas W. White as editor of *The Southern Literary Messenger*. This author’s posthumous reputation suffered when his enemy Rufus Wilmot Griswold became his literary executor. For 10 points, name this author of “The Poetic Principle”, whose essay “The Philosophy of Composition” explains why his most famous poem uses the word “Nevermore”.

ANSWER: Edgar Allan Poe