

21 Tossups

1. This work builds on William Blake in its statement that “Every deep reader is an Idiot Questioner. He asks, ‘Who wrote my poem?’”. This work says that tautological criticism declares that a poem means itself, and reductive criticism declares a poem means something that is not a poem, but the true meaning of a poem is always another poem. Those ideas are re-iterated in an “interchapter” titled “A Manifesto for (*) Antithetical Criticism”. In this work, creative writing is described as a form of disciplined perverseness rebelling against priority. This work includes *askesis*, *tessera*, and *clinamen* among its six revisionary ratios by which a strong poet may overcome his belatedness by misreading his predecessor. For 10 points, name this 1973 work of literary theory by Harold Bloom.

ANSWER: *The Anxiety of Influence*

2. In one poem, this author says that the four things he hates more than snakes and poison are: “tobacco smoke, bedbugs, garlic, and Christ”. He declared that “without Love, / the world’s not the world” in a poem that opens “Tell me you stonies, O speak, you towering palaces!”. Both of those poems are from collections this author wrote during a 1786-1788 journey to Italy. A poem beginning “Knowest thou the land where the (*) lemon trees bloom, / Where the gold orange glows in the deep thicket’s gloom” is recited in one of his novels. This author of the *Venetian Epigrams* and *Roman Elegies* wrote a poem that opens: “Who rides, so late, through the night and wind?” in which a father carries a sick child on horseback, and the child sees visions of the title elf, who takes him. For 10 points, name this German Romantic author of “Erlkönig” and *Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship*.

ANSWER: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

3. While in the Metropolitan Museum, this character remarks that the fact that the most important objects from forgotten people are labeled “Use unknown” is proof that nothing matters. This character is suspected of having had an affair with her husband’s secretary, who later becomes the French tutor of Mrs. Carfry’s nephew. In one scene, a character who is sent to fetch this character decides not to do so when this character doesn’t turn around while standing on a wooden pier in (*) Newport. The novel in which she appears ends with the male protagonist choosing to sit on a bench outside of her Paris apartment rather than going up to see her. This granddaughter of Mrs. Manson Mingott flees to Europe rather than consummate an affair, after May Welland announces her own pregnancy. For 10 points, name this ex-wife of a Polish count, the love interest of Newland Archer in Edith Wharton’s *The Age of Innocence*.

ANSWER: Countess Ellen Olenska [accept either name]

4. In a work titled for eating these objects, the speaker describes licking the hand of a woman, before declaring: “I am a new man. I snarl at her and bark”. One of these objects is declared to be “sad because it wants to be yours, and cannot” in “Paradoxes and Oxymorons”, by John Ashbery. A hypothetical one of these objects is described as “Silent as the sleeve-worn stone / Of casement ledges where the moss has grown” and (*) “motionless in time / As the moon climbs”. One of these objects called “Oranges” is contrasted with a work by Mike Goldberg called “Sardines” in Frank O’Hara’s “Why I am not a painter”. One author prescribed that these “should be equal to: not true”. These objects are said to contain “imaginary gardens with real toads in them” by Marianne Moore. For 10 points, name these objects created by people like Mark Strand, Archibald MacLeish, and Walt Whitman.

ANSWER: poems [or poetry; prompt on anything vaguer, like “books” or “piece of literature”]

5. Near the end of this story, a group of men accidentally break a vase while carrying an object into a parlor. In this story, various characters suggest searching in The Prince of Wales pub, in response to the absence of another character. At one point in this story, the protagonist repeatedly asks her mother-in-law not to wail and moan so loudly, as she is in danger of (*) waking the sleeping children upstairs. The protagonist of this story mentions experiencing the title sensation when she was married, when her daughter Annie was born, and the first time they brought her husband home drunk. For 10 points, name this story in which the death of coal miner Walter Bates is reported to his wife Elizabeth while she smells the title floral scent, a story by D.H. Lawrence.

ANSWER: “Odour of Chrysanthemums” [the correct title for this story has no “the” at the beginning, but this mistake is so ubiquitous that you should be generous, and allow this, in the spirit of descriptivism]

6. In one scene in this novel, a prison warder sadistically whips an insane prisoner who keeps asking “How, how, how are you?”. One character in this novel is captured when another character, who agreed to meet him at *The Black Cat* club to warn him, gets absorbed in a game of roulette and fails to show up. This novel opens with a character preparing to stab a sleeping man through a mosquito net. That murderer’s attempt to bomb the car of a political figure is accidentally thwarted by an antique dealer. In this novel, Baron (*) Clappique smuggles arms for the rebels, who resist a consortium led by Ferral, and whose own leaders include Hemmelrich and Katov. Chen Ta Erh tries to assassinate Chiang Kai-shek, while Kyo Gisors leads the Communist revolt in, for 10 points, what French novel fictionalizing the lead-up to the Chinese Civil War, by André Malraux?
ANSWER: Man’s Fate [or *La Condition humaine*]

7. This poem asks: “Will the sunflower turn to us, will the clematis / Stray down, bend to us; tendril and spray / Clutch and cling?” One part of this poem describes the wind that sweeps through such places as “London, / Hampstead and Clerken well, Campden and Putney”. A bird in this poem says: “human kind cannot bear very much reality”. The lines “Garlic and sapphires in the mud / Clot the bedded axle-tree” begin the second section of this poem. This poem describes a (*) rose-garden connected to a passage, in which “Footfalls echo in the memory”. This poem opens by declaring that “Time present and time past / Are both perhaps present in time future”. For 10 points, name this poem titled for a manor house in Cotswolds, the first of T.S. Eliot’s *Four Quartets*.
ANSWER: Burnt Norton [prompt on “*Four Quartets*”]

8. Two characters in this work get into a violent argument about whether a certain dog won a medal or merely an honorable mention. When he is summoned to the bedside of someone he has mortally wounded, the protagonist of this work asks if he can put on slippers first, because it would look silly for him to go shoeless. In this work, the hypocrisy of an old tradesman who rants against education for women is revealed when another character points out that the old man had earlier been bragging about the orgies he attended at the (*) Kuvanin Fair. Shortly after that incident, the protagonist reveals to a lawyer that he was the defendant in the trial they just mentioned. A year after its publication, its author added an epilogue advocating sexual abstinence. For 10 points, name this novella in which Pozdnyshov tells a train passenger of how he stabbed his wife for possibly having an affair with a violinist, by Leo Tolstoy.
ANSWER: *The Kreutzer Sonata* [or *Kreutzerova Sonata*]

9. In one scene in this play, a character yells at his parents for lending a stranger his favorite pink shirt. One character in this play teaches his lover how to pronounce “bottle of beer” and to send rich people pots of jam as gifts. Two men in this play are kicked out of the Rainbow Room for dancing together, shortly before having sex together in the park. That encounter leads Elizabeth’s fiancée, Paul, to jump out of their window to his death. This play opens and closes with a double-sided (*) Kandinsky painting rotating above the stage. One character in this play gains access to an apartment by telling the story of muggers stealing his essay on *The Catcher in the Rye*, and later promises Flan and Ouisa a role in a movie version of *Cats*. For 10 points, a conman pretending to be the son of Sidney Poitier connects the lives of an assortment of New Yorkers in what play by John Guare?
ANSWER: Six Degrees of Separation

10. One character in this work earns the respect of his comrades when he punches a man who pokes him in the ribs on the pretext of showing him where sirloin steak comes from. One character in this work exclaims “Handsomely done, my lad! And handsome is as handsome did it too!” after another character spills a pan full of soup. The protagonist is warned that a character nicknamed “Jimmy Legs” dislikes him; that warning is given by the Old (*) Dansker. While giving an impassioned defense, the stuttering protagonist accidentally fatally strikes the master-at-arms who falsely accused him of being the ringleader in a mutiny aboard the HMS Bellipotent. Claggart’s death forces Captain Vere to court-martial the title character, leading to his hanging. For 10 points, name this novella, the unfinished final prose work of Herman Melville.
ANSWER: Billy Budd, *Sailor* [accept Billy Budd, *Foretopman*]

11. In one novel by this author, a nanny tells a story about doves to some children who are distracted by watching doves copulate on a miniature model of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. In that novel by him, the cook's son strangles a peacock, and a lisping man from an insurance company comes to enquire about the disappearance of a sapphire ring. That novel by him chronicles the misadventures of servants like the beautiful maid Edith and the butler (*) Charley Raunce after their masters, the Tennants, leave them alone in an Irish castle during World War Two. In another novel by him, the Birmingham factory worker Bert Jones attempts to elope with Lily Gates. For 10 points, name this mid 20th-century English author of novels centering on social class, such as *Loving* and *Living*.

ANSWER: Henry Green [or Henry Vincent Yorke]

12. A female character in this play negotiates for a "mountainy ram" and a load of dung as the price for seducing a man, but she later offers that price to the man if she helps him win a different girl. One character in this play refuses to stay in a building alone with his fiancée because he's scared of what the unseen Father Reilly would say. In this play, a character hired as the new pot-boy is recognized by another character after he wins a mule race. In this play, (*) Shawn Keogh is granted special dispensation to marry Pegeen Mike, who's more interested in a character who smashed someone else in the head with a loy. The 1907 premiere of this play led to riots centered at the Abbey Theatre. For 10 points, Christy Mahon's story about killing his own father earns the admiration of the inhabitants of an Irish village in what play by J.M. Synge?

ANSWER: *The Playboy of the Western World*

13. In one poem, this author wrote: "Writing is a puppy biting nothingness / Writing wounds without a trace of blood". The speakers of that poem by him stand "Close to the gardens of broken shadow", where they "cultivate hope". The lines "This is your name-- / a woman said, / and vanished through the winding of a corridor" opens one section of a poem by him that includes the refrain "One day I shall become what I want". The speaker of one poem by this author repeatedly mentions that he has eight (*) children, that he has "a name without a title", and asks "So will you be angry?". That poem by this author of the volumes *Mural* and *State of Siege* ends "Beware / Beware / Of my hunger / And my anger" and opens "Write down! / I am an Arab". For 10 points, name this author of "Identity Card", a Palestinian poet.

ANSWER: Mahmoud Darwish

14. In one story by this author, an heiress is duped into plunging down an elevator shaft to her death by a man claiming to be a priest of Apollo. In another story by him, a poet's body is found near a note saying "I die by my own hand; yet I die murdered", written on paper with a corner snipped off. A dog starts howling because it was playing fetch with a sword-stick that sinks into the ocean in his story "The Oracle of the Dog". At the end of a novel by him, a criminal mastermind rides an (*) elephant from a zoo into an exhibition from which he hijacks a hot-air balloon. His most famous character was introduced in a story in which he must protect the Blue Cross from the master thief Flambeau. In a novel by him, a poet becomes an undercover policeman to infiltrate a council of anarchists named after days of the week. For 10 points, name this creator of the priest/detective Father Brown and the novel *The Man Who Was Thursday*.

ANSWER: G[ilbert] K[ith] Chesterton

15. In one essay, this author described visiting Raskolnikov's bedroom on a trip to Russia with William Gaddis. He responded to a Reiner Stach biography of Kafka with an essay narrated in the first person by Kafka himself, in which Kafka bemoans being turned into a metaphor. One of his protagonists invents the a faction called the Party of Disappointed People. This author of *Life Sentences* wrote a work in which the arrival of a frozen child at their home inspires Pa, Big Hans, and Jorge to travel by sleigh through the snow to confront the killer of the child's family. This author of *A (*) Temple of Texts* and "The Pedersen Kid" spent 26 years writing a novel in which history professor William Frederick Kohler writes a book on guilt in Nazi Germany while burrowing into his own basement. For 10 points, name this American author of *In the Heart of the Heart of the Country* and *The Tunnel*.

ANSWER: William H[oward] Gass

16. A French nobleman in this novel sprays his crops with bull semen in an attempt to produce “milk grass” and has a theory that the earth produces a toxic gas called *fludium letale*. During a fireworks display in celebration of the king, this novel’s protagonist tracks a red-headed girl who is slicing plums and strangles her to death. That protagonist of this novel holes himself up in a mountain for seven years after discovering that substances like glass and hair cannot have their essences (*) distilled in an alembic. After apprenticing with Giuseppe Baldini, the protagonist of this novel becomes a serial killer of adolescent virgins in the town of Grasse, in order to manufacture a scent that will make people love him. For 10 points, Jean-Baptiste Grenouille is the murderous, smell-obsessed protagonist of what novel by Patrick Süskind?

ANSWER: Perfume

17. Two characters in this work are described as “rapid falcons in a snare / Condemned to do the flitting of a bat”. When one character in this work thinks of his mistress’ hair while smelling a wild rose, his wife makes him hand over the rose and crushes it beneath her heel. This work describes a couple masking their troubles from their dinner guests in a game of “Hiding the Skeleton”, in which “Love’s corpse-light shine[s]”. This (*) collection opens with a man observing a woman cry sobs that are “strangled mute, like little gasping snakes”. Mary Ellen’s abandonment of the poet to start a relationship with Henry Wallis was the basis for this collection of fifty 16-line poems. For 10 points, name this Victorian sonnet sequence about a failing marriage, by George Meredith.

ANSWER: Modern Love

18. A professor in this novel bores people at a party by trying to explain his namesake hypothesis about the historical significance of Pittsburgh. In this novel, a cat that destroys the pigskin briefcase of its owner’s new boyfriend is sent to a psychiatrist. That cat’s owner and her boyfriend meet when the man’s sculptor ex-girlfriend takes out a personal ad for him without his consent. One character in this novel is arrested at an anti-nuclear protest at Lungelss Labs. That one-time lover of a gay Catholic man named Ed, who owns a pet (*) iguana named Arnold Schwarzenegger, marries the iguana owner’s sister, Liz Dorati, who spends most of the novel dating John. This work uses a sonnet form inspired by Pushkin’s *Eugene Onegin*. For 10 points, name this novel in verse about yuppies in 1980’s San Francisco, by Vikram Seth.

ANSWER: The Golden Gate

19. In one poem by this author, a specimen in a butterfly collection asks: “Who told the little kid about sticking pins into us?”. The four lines “Green Buddhas / On the fruit stand. / We eat the smile / And spit out the teeth” form his poem “Watermelons”. One poem by him consists of fake corrections, such as “Where it says snow / read teeth marks of a virgin”. In another poem by him, Death’s family waits for him to come home for dinner after he accidentally goes to the wrong address to collect a body. This poet of “errata” and “Eyes Fastened with Pins” has translated the work of his countrymen Tomaz (*) Salamun and Vasko Popa, and he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1990 for a collection of over 70 short prose poems. For 10 points, name this former U.S. Poet Laureate and author of the collection *The World Doesn’t End*, a Serbian-American poet.

ANSWER: [Dušan] “Charles” Simic

20. This poem is the subject of “Miniaturizing, Modeling, and Mocking Ideas”, the first chapter of Helen Vendler’s *Poets Thinking*. In this poem, Vice is described as a monster whom when we become “familiar with her face / We first endure, then pity, then embrace.” The subject of this poem is described as “Created half to rise, and half to fall” and “The glory, jest, and riddle of the world”. The first epistle of this poem concludes that in “spite of pride, in erring reason’s spite / One truth is clear, Whatever (*) is, is right.” This poem opens “Awake, my St. John! Leave all meaner things / To low ambition, and the pride of kings”. Its most famous section commands: “Know thyself and presume not God to scan”, before explaining what is “The proper study of mankind”. For 10 points, name this poem about the place of human beings in the world by Alexander Pope.

ANSWER: Essay on Man

21. One character in this play says to her gravely ill husband: “Where love is great, the littlest doubts are fear; / Where little fears grow great, great love grows there”, and promises she will never remarry by declaring: “A second time I kill my husband dead / When second husband kisses me in bed.” The protagonist of this play is killed in a conspiracy between his wife, Baptista, and his nephew, Lucianus. The actors are warned not to (*) saw the air too much with their hands, and to speak their speeches trippingly on the tongue, before performing this play, whose title character dies from having poison poured in his ear. A man who writes a new speech for this play re-titles it *The Mousetrap*. One member of the audience for this play says “The lady doth protest too much, methinks”. For 10 points, name this play-within-a-play that is staged to reveal Claudius’ guilt at the behest of Hamlet.

ANSWER: *The Murder of Gonzago* [be generous, and prompt on *Hamlet*; also prompt on *The Mousetrap* before mentioned]