

Gorilla Literature Singles 2014
Packet by Rob Carson

21 Tossups

1. The protagonist of an unfinished novel from this country theorizes that “unforeseen catastrophes” aren’t caused by “a single motive”, but are rather like “a whirlpool [...] in the consciousness of the world”. That novel from this country also features a woman who constantly rewrites her will and whose desire for a daughter is sublimated by her “adoption” of a series of “nieces”. A tram ticket leads the protagonist of that novel to believe that that woman was killed by a jewel thief. Major plot points in another novel from this country include the Faulkner-inspired burning of a barn and the revelation that (*) Santina was executed and burned by partisans, leaving a crescent-shaped mark on a hill. That novel from this country is dominated by Nuto, the friend of the protagonist, who is known as “Eel” or “Anguilla”. For 10 points, name this European country home to the authors of *That Awful Mess on the Via Merulana* and *The Moon and the Bonfires*, Carlo Emilio Gadda and Cesare Pavese.

ANSWER: Italy [or the Italian Republic; or Repubblica Italiana]

2. A section of this poem compares sleep to being “blinded alike from sunshine and from rain, as though a rose should shut, and be a bud again”. A character in this poem is encouraged to “flit like a ghost away” at the sight of “dwarfish Hildebrand” and the gray-haired Lord Maurice. That character in this poem brings forth “a heap of candied apple, quince, and plum, and gourd” from the (*) closet in which he was hiding to interrupt another character’s “azure-lidded sleep”. The deaths of old Angela and the Beadsman are related in the final stanza of this poem, which is based on a superstition by which girls could see their future husband in a dream. For 10 points, name this John Keats poem in which Madeline and Porphyro elope on the title night.

ANSWER: “The Eve of St. Agnes”

3. The protagonist of a work by this man is prevented from sweet-talking Hercules by the timely appearance of Our Lady of Malaria. In that work by this man, Clotho reveals the spindles of Augurinus, Baba, and the title character to Mercury, saying that she will cause them to die within a year. An earlier work of Euripides inspired a play by this man in which a horrified Amphitryon watches the slayer of Lycus go insane and kill his wife Megara and their children. His only surviving comic work is a (*) Menippean satire whose protagonist is sentenced to be a law clerk in the court of the underworld after the sudden appearance of Caligula, thus averting his previous fate, namely being cursed to attempt to throw dice with a bottomless cup for eternity. For 10 points, name this Stoic author of *Hercules Furens* and the *Apocolocyntosis divi Claudii*, the namesake of a genre of bloody revenge tragedy.

ANSWER: Lucius Annaeus Seneca the Younger

4. This character claims that a shepherd is “damned like an ill-roasted egg, all on one side” for having never been to court. Later, he orders another character to “abandon, -- which is in the vulgar leave, -- the society, -- which in the boorish is company, -- of this female, -- which in the common is woman”, before threatening to kill William in “a hundred and fifty ways”. This character engages the services of Sir Oliver Martext, but is convinced that that man is unworthy of overseeing his marriage by (*) Jaques. Eventually, he marries the simpleminded Audrey after leaving Duke Frederick’s court and following Celia into the Forest of Arden. For 10 points, identify this fool from *As You Like It*, named for his ability to reveal Rosalind’s purity.

ANSWER: Touchstone

5. A character in this novel is repeatedly described as baring his chest, which he had first and most famously done in a fight against Koll. Another of its characters is a Calabrian servant named Sandro, who has an affair with the handmaid Herda. One of this novel’s main characters is given a hawk named Bathsheba by a man who then leaves to become a part of the Varangian Guard. This novel opens with Rorik trying to persuade his daughter to accept marriage to (*) Horwendil the Jute. In its final section, the Lord Chamberlain Corambis and Fengon both Latinize their names. This novel is divided into three parts which use different character names, taken in order from Saxo Grammaticus, Francois de Belleforest, and Shakespeare. For 10 points, name this 2000 novel that ends with Hamlet’s return to Elsinore, a prequel written by John Updike.

ANSWER: Gertrude and Claudius

6. This author describes a man angrily shouting “Bullshit!” regarding the assertion that Akhenaten introduced monotheism in the essay “Egyptomania”. This author wrote the pamphlet “Lifeitselfmanship, Or, How to Become a Precisely-because Man”, which outlined the differences between “L and non-L”, or “Left and Non-Left”, English, as a response to the book *Noblesse Oblige*. Robert Byrne’s book *Writing Rackets* helped inspire this author to investigate Bennett Cerf and the “Famous Writers School” in the article “Let Us Now Praise Famous Writers”. She described carving hammer-and-sickles into windows to match the (*) swastikas carved by her sister in her autobiographical novel *Hons and Rebels*. Perhaps most famously, she expanded her article “St. Peter Don’t You Call Me” into a muckraking investigation of the skyrocketing costs of funerals. For 10 points, name this Anglo-American author of *The American Way of Death*, a member of a family which also included *The Pursuit of Love* author Nancy.

ANSWER: Jessica Mitford [prompt on last name only; accept Jessica Lucy Freeman-Mitford or Decca Mitford]

7. These things are said to have “got so far. Seventy feet high! Russia, Poland and Germany!” in a poem whose last stanza claims “Napoleon is pleased, he is pleased with everything” and describes these things as having “a notion of honor” and a “black intractable mind”. The speaker of another poem about these creatures describes herself as “Pillar of white in a blackout of knives” after joining the rector, the midwife, and the sexton to dress up for a “meeting” involving them. They are said to live on “Tate and Lyle” in the poem “Wintering”, which asserts that they are “all (*) women, maids and the long royal lady.” Another poem describes them as “women who only scurry, whose news is the open cherry, the open clover”. The “chore-girl” tells these creatures that “Mistress Mary is dead and gone!” in a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier. For 10 points, identify these creatures, the subjects of a five-poem sequence by Sylvia Plath that includes “The Swarm” and “The Sting”.

ANSWER: bees [accept “Telling the Bees” or queen bees]

8. The narrator of this story recounts having used a pen name inspired by a folktale about a boy who forgot how to walk and so crawled like a reptile, but misattributes the story to the *Han Feizi*. A gang of schoolgirls in this story beg a photographer to “tell us what *ravu shiin* means”. In the first section of this story, the protagonist sees a raincoat draped on a sofa shortly before learning that his brother-in-law was hit by a train while wearing a raincoat. The protagonist sees the dead body of a mole before being struck by his recurring headache in the last part of this story, which ends with the line “Oh, if someone would gently and kindly strangle me in my sleep”. This story chronicles a trip to a hotel to attend a wedding reception, during which the narrator begins to (*) descend into madness, foreshadowing its author’s suicide in 1927, the same year this story was published. For 10 points, name this Ryunosuke Akutagawa story whose protagonist continually hallucinates the title spinning gears.

ANSWER: “Cogwheels” [or “Haguruma”; or “Spinning Gears” until “spinning” is read]

9. In this author’s first full-length novel, the socialist Rainer clashes with Beloyartsev, the leader of the commune “Domus Concordae,” who was widely taken to be a caricature of Vasily Sleptsov. Another of this man’s characters uses his dying breath to advise the Czar to stop cleaning guns with brick-dust. This man published his anti-nihilist novel *No Way Out* under the pseudonym M.Stebnitsky. One of this author’s protagonists is a (*) left-handed craftsman from Tula who outdoes the English in putting microscopic horseshoes on the title construction, while another dreams of a cat which has the head of her murdered father-in-law Boris before then also arranging the death of her husband Zinovy. For 10 points, name this Russian author of “The Steel Flea” who inspired a Shostakovich opera with his novella *Lady Macbeth of the Mzensk District*.

ANSWER: Nikolai [Semyonovich] Leskov

10. An essay about this poet calls one of his works “the terrible negative from which the eighteenth century’s Kodak picture had to be printed” and ends by describing a joy “strong enough to make us say [...] that many things in this world are wonderful, but of all these the most wonderful is man”. A poem by this author describes a “shining surface picture” of “Me myself in the summer heaven godlike”. The speaker of that poem relates a story of a water-drop from a fern disrupting the sight of something regarding which he asks “What was that (*) whiteness? Truth? A pebble of quartz?” The speaker of another poem by this author claims to have “passed by the watchman on his beat / And dropped my eyes, unwilling to explain”, and also to have “outwalked the furthest city light”. That poem by this man describes a “luminary clock against the sky” which “proclaimed the time was neither wrong nor right.” For 10 points, name this subject of Randall Jarrell’s “To The Laodiceans” who wrote “For Once, Then, Something”, “Acquainted with the Night”, and “Design”.

ANSWER: Robert [Lee] Frost

11. One member of this family is lured into a trap by Lu Gong in which he and his horse are crushed by a boulder. That member of this family sees the Emperor's star "dulled by a mist" before learning of a beam of light shining out of a well, wherein he discovers the Imperial Seal. Another member of this family orders the execution of the mystic Yu Ji, whose ghost later haunts that man until his death, saddening his childhood friend, a longtime servant of this family named (*) Zhou Yu. A third member of this family is saved by Ling Tong from an ambush during the battle of Hefei, and later offers his sister in marriage in order to strengthen an alliance with Liu Bei of Shu. For 10 points, identify this family from *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* whose members Jian, Ce, and Quan were instrumental in the founding of Eastern Wu, and who claimed descent from the author of *The Art of War*.

ANSWER: the Sun family [under no circumstances accept "the Tzu family", Jesus Christ]

12. A character in this story claims that "the most inveterate mark of men in general" is "the capacity to spend endless time with dull women". Theodora Bosanquet allows Minnie Kidd to read this story in the novel *Author, Author*. This story opens at a party at Weatherend, where two characters compare memories of a meeting in Rome during which a thunderstorm drove them to seek shelter at Pompeii. Its main male character is obsessed with avoiding "selfishness", despite the fact that his constant (*) female companion's self-stated life's goal is "to help you to pass for a man like another". At its end, the protagonist laments having never accepted the love of May Bartram, realizing that wasting his life was exactly the catastrophe he'd long feared. For 10 points, name this novella in which John Marcher likens his sense of foreboding to the lurking title creature, a work of Henry James.

ANSWER: "The Beast in the Jungle"

13. Description acceptable. A poem describes this person as "water of a hundred springs" and "a country with a thousand arms". The speaker of that poem describes a dream in which they "walk through countries the color of a bruise" while this person remains "vaguely on the next" black hill, prompting the speaker to later lament "I seek you and you don't know it". Four poems about an event involving this figure are titled for the Nights of Defeat, Descent, Consummation, and the Old Weavers. This subject of "The Flight" is begged to "Rise up! Rise up!" in a poem that connects her to a "vast and holy symphony" of people including "Anna, Elizabeth, Leah, and Rachel!" That poem, which memorializes this person's "steadfast eyes", "wide lap", and "beloved (*) breasts", describes a visit to her grave and is called "Lapida Filial". For 10 points, identify this person whose death is mourned in the first section of her daughter's poetry collection *Tala*.

ANSWER: Gabriela Mistral's mother [or obvious equivalents; or Lucila Godoy Alcayaga's mother; or Petronila Alcayaga; prompt on Alcayaga]

14. A character described in this story claimed to love Jane Austen, but it was later revealed that his favorite author "wrote a book about four men that starved to death in Alaska" and was named L. Manning Vines. Another character in this story responds to three different questions by referencing Armenian actor Akim Tamiroff. It was adapted into the film *The Foolish Heart*, still the only film adaptation of its author's works. A character in this story screams at her daughter to "get in the center of that bed" after learning that (*) "Mickey Mickeranno" has succeeded "Jimmy Jimmereeno" as Ramona's imaginary friend. One of this story's central characters laments having married Lew after the wartime death of Walt Glass, who gave her the title nickname after she twisted an ankle. For 10 points, identify this J.D. Salinger story about the drunken reminiscences of Mary Jane and Eloise.

ANSWER: "Uncle Wiggily in Connecticut"

15. A train in this novel counts among its passengers a fruit-seller named Steve who is actually the disguised criminal Hiram "the Pinhead" Glazer and a pickpocket named Wellington Mape. A recurring character in this novel is sometimes known as "Operative 6348XM" or "Comrade Z", but is generally described as a fat man in a Chesterfield overcoat. Squire Bird sells its protagonist's mother's house to Asa Goldstein, who also decorates the "American" room in the "House of All Nations" brothel owned by Wu Fong, which is where its protagonist's (*) oft-raped love interest Betty Prail is taken. At the end of this novel, its protagonist is assassinated in the Bijou Theater and becomes a martyr for the National Revolutionary Party of Shagpoke Whipple, after earlier losing his teeth, leg, thumb, eye, and scalp. For 10 points, identify this vicious parody of Horatio Alger, a Nathanael West novel depicting the "Dismantling of Lemuel Pitkin".

ANSWER: A Cool Million: *The Dismantling of Lemuel Pitkin*

16. The penultimate entry in this collection predicts that “One day the stars, down dripping, shall flow in golden wine: We, of that nectar sipping, as living stars will shine.” That section of this work describes how “Nature stood alone and lifeless. Dry Number and rigid Measure bound her with iron chains” after earlier outlining the origins of the Sun. Its first entry asks “what living, sentient thing loves not the all-joyous light?” before turning to the “holy, unspeakable, mysterious” title subject. Its second section opens with the plaintive questions “Must the (*) morning always return? Will the despotism of the earthly never cease?”. Its final entry, a poem beginning with the lines “Into the bosom of the earth! Out of the Light's dominions!”, is commonly called “Longing for Death”. For 10 points, identify this collection of prose and poetry inspired by the death of Sophie von Kühn, the fiancée of its author, Novalis.

ANSWER: Hymns to the Night [or Hymnen an die Nacht; ensure the first word is plural]

17. A collection of poetry named for this character includes a poem that begins “Let the place of the solitaires / Be a place of perpetual undulation.” “Fabliau of Florida” opens that series of poems named for this character, which appeared in 1919 in *Poetry*, also contains “The Anecdote of the Jar”, and was the first published collection of poetry by Wallace Stevens. This character himself is memorably described as “a direction-post, which is always telling the way to a place, and never goes there.” This character’s daughters (*) Charity and Mercy are often referred to as “Cherry and Merry”. He once taught both John Westlock and his own servant Tom Pinch, though they both eventually become disillusioned with the fact that despite claiming to be an architect, he never designed or built anything. For 10 points, name this character from Dickens’s *Martin Chuzzlewit* whose name has become a byword for hypocrisy.

ANSWER: Seth Pecksniff [accept Pecksniffiana]

18. In January 2013, a translation of the first third of this book by Dai Congrong became a surprise bestseller in China. In a letter to Harriet Weaver, this novel’s author explained the system of “sigla” he developed while writing it. Its supposed use as the basis for Thornton Wilder’s *The Skin of Our Teeth* analyzed in an article by Henry Morton Robinson and Joseph (*) Campbell, who later collaborated on a book offering *A Skeleton Key* to it. Samuel Beckett wrote an essay about this novel’s use of the ideas presented in Vico’s *Scienza Nuova*. Its second book mostly concerns the children Issy, Shem the Penman, and Shaun the Post, the last of whom spends its third book trying to deliver a letter written by Anna Livia Plurabelle, or ALP, to exonerate her husband HCE. For 10 points, name this dream-narrative novel which begins and ends in the middle of the same sentence, the final published work of James Joyce.

ANSWER: Finnegans Wake

19. In one work, this poet described God pouring a “glass of blessings” onto man, retaining only Rest at the bottom. The speaker of another of his poems “rears” a certain broken object “made of a heart and cemented with tears”. This author of “The (*) Pulley” gave the advice “If thou do ill; the joy fades, not the pains; if well; the pain doth fade, the joy remains” at the end of “The Church-Porch”, which opens a collection of 160 of his “Sacred Poems and Private Ejaculations”. For 10 points, name this consumptive metaphysical poet who included the pattern poems “The Altar” and “Easter Wings” in his collection *The Temple*.

ANSWER: George Herbert

20. This author produced a series of short films titled *Study I* through *Study V* after emigrating to Sweden in 1939. One of this author’s characters claims that “For me the only reality is imagination, the world inside myself”, and appears in a play whose cast also features the singers Kokol, Polpoch, Rossignol, and Cucurucu. In the opening scene of a novel by this man, the main characters note that Hercules is absent from the surviving fragments of the Pergamon Altar. This author of a three-volume novel about (*) anti-fascist students also penned a play whose debut included music composed by Richard Peaslee. That play by this man features regular intercessions by the Abbe Coulmier, while the man playing Duperret constantly attempts to fondle the woman playing Charlotte Corday during a performance in the Charenton Asylum. For 10 points, name this German author of *The Aesthetics of Resistance* and *Marat/Sade*.

ANSWER: Peter Ulrich Weiss

21. Wikipedia amusingly misattributes books on molybdenum chemistry and lubricants to an author of this surname who, in reality, chronicled a visit to apartheid South Africa in *Honorary White* and wrote an autobiographical novel in which his character falls in love with fellow teacher Gillian Blanchard. An author with this surname repeated the lines stick is the whip / and the dark deck is slavery” in his poem “Limbo” and invented an idiosyncratic typographical style called “Sycorax Video Style”. A character with this name is the protagonist of a novel that includes the chapter (*) “Louise Colet’s Version”; that character spends most of the novel hunting for an item which supposedly inspired Loulou, the companion of Felicité in the story “A Simple Heart”. *To Sir, With Love* author E.R. and *Flaubert’s Parrot* protagonist Geoffrey share this surname with the author of the *Arrivants* trilogy and the poem *X/Self*. For 10 points, give the surname of the Barbadian poet E. Kamau.

ANSWER: **Braithwaite** [the books on molybdenum and lubricants are apparently by a chemist who is also named E.R. Braithwaite]