

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 3

1. One character in this play denounces his daughter's principles as "like Schopenhauer, all nonsense" because she refuses her grandmother's dowry. As part of this play's extensive revision, a soliloquy in which the protagonist bemoans how over the past year he has come to despise himself as a pathetic coward was added to Act Three. This play ends with the plea, "For God's sake! Stop him!" from a girl who praises women's understanding of "active love" to exhort her lover to remain true to his wife. The drunken estate manager (*) Borkin schemes to pay back Zinaida's loans to this play's title character, who informs his disowned wife of Dr. Lvov's fatal diagnosis after she confronts him over his abortive affair with Lebedev's daughter Sasha. For 10 points, name this chronicle of the increasingly suicidal despair of the bankrupt husband of the consumptive converted Jew Anna Petrovna, the first dramatic success of Anton Chekhov.

ANSWER: Ivanov

2. This philosophy's supporters look for loot from "Golden Lily" at a Boer War vet's tea plantation Majuba. Opposing this philosophy leads a seamstress to hire the refugee Pitamber in *The Royal Ghosts*, which includes a story about a schizophrenic ranting to his mom about its followers. A curfew targets this philosophy during an ex-POW judge's apprenticeship to a Japanese tattoo artist in *The Garden of Evening Mists*. A poem predicts this philosophy will create "a new ocean" "active as the Araucarian volcanoes' fire" through a figure whose "bedroom light is turned off late." Americans ban (*) whiskey because drinking makes them support it according to a lector who reads Tolstoy aloud in *Anna in the Tropics*. This philosophy has "made a king of a carpenter" according to "Let the woodcutter awaken." Two hungry miners at Chuquicamata inspire the narrator to support this ideology in *The Motorcycle Diaries*. For 10 points, name this ideology advanced by *Canto General*'s paean to Stalin.

ANSWER: Communism or state socialism [accept Maoism or Maobadism or CTs or MCPs or MRLAs or anything else falling under a Communist umbrella such as Marxist-Leninism or "collectivism"; accept Stalinism before mentioned]

3. One essay by this author points out that Thales, Empedocles, and Pythagoras all carried out their philosophical discourse in verse rather than prose, and begins by describing John Pietro Pugliano's speech in praise of horse-riding. That essay by him counters Plato by arguing that poetry lies the least of all disciplines because it is the only one that does not claim to portray truth. He wrote a work in which a husband and wife have sex in a cave, while each believing themselves to be sleeping with a different person, after which the husband drinks what he thinks is a love potion and falls into a coma, which is mistaken for death by the wife. (*) Percy Bysshe Shelley took inspiration from this author's *The Defence of Poesy* to write a similarly titled tract. In this author's most famous prose work, the Amazonian warrior Zelmane is really Pyrocles in drag, trying to woo Philoclea, the daughter of Basilius. For 10 points, name this Elizabethan author of *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*.

ANSWER: Sir Philip Sidney

4. After the protagonist of this novel follows his father into a carnival tent where a naked obese woman writhes in a coffin, he is smacked by his mother and he puts stones in his shoes and walks for a mile as penance. After seeing a message about the "friendliest bed in town" scrawled on the wall of a bathroom stall, the protagonist of this novel gets involved with a prostitute who insists that his hat makes him look like a preacher. The protagonist of this novel encounters an evangelist who falsely claims to have (*) blinded himself with lye, and has an affair with the evangelist's nymphomaniac daughter, Sabbath Lily. One character in this novel kills the man who plays "Gonga the Gorilla" to take his suit, and steals a mummified dwarf that he believes will become the "new Jesus". Enoch Emery tags along with Hazel Motes, who founds the Church Without Christ in, for 10 points, what first novel by Flannery O'Connor?

ANSWER: Wise Blood

5. This character calls himself a “guest on a visit” to humanity in the light of an unsuccessful attempt to make him father a child, which he writes about after rushing from a tent, vomiting, after he is ordered to fetch dice by a love poet to draw lots for prostitutes. During a food shortage preceding a plague outbreak and siege, an increasingly depressed girl is repeatedly ordered to confess her sins in the apartment of this character, whose hatred for his castrato-voiced “race” of buffoons drives him to strangle Jehoshaphat. Military campaigns with and against (*) Boccarossa thrill this peace-loathing character, who disobeys his master’s directive at a banquet by poisoning Princess Teodora’s Petrarch-inspired lover Don Riccardo in addition to il Toro. For 10 points, name this misanthropic ghoul haunting an Italian Prince’s court, the tiny title character of a novel by Pär Lagerkvist.

ANSWER: the Dwarf [or Piccoline; or Dvärgen]

6. In this play, the poem “MCMXIV” by the “Himmler of the Accessions Desk” Philip Larkin is recited in round during a discussion that inspires another character’s WWI metaphors for his relationship with a secretary. Several characters in this play pretend to be wounded soldiers at Ypres after they are barged in on while acting out a brothel whose clients use the subjunctive. In this play, the technique of inverting clichés is applied in presenting a TV program on the toilets at Rievaulx Abbey by a (*) wheelchair-bound character. In this play, comparing the Holocaust to the dissolution of the monasteries during a shared lesson outrages the Jewish family of Posner, who sings Gracie Fields songs beloved by a colleague of Mrs. Linnott, who is fired for “fiddling” with a student on his motorbike. For 10 points, name this play that contrasts Hector teaching knowledge for its own sake with Irwin’s fraud-based tricks for the Oxford entrance exams, a work by Alan Bennett.

ANSWER: *The History Boys*

7. In a tale within a tale, a character of this profession cites an anecdote from Seneca about how Cambyases used a bow-and-arrow to kill the son of a knight who was complaining of Cambyases’ drunkenness. In a tale told by one of these people, a horse is not confiscated when its owner says “The devil take you” because the owner didn’t really mean it. The pilgrim with this profession lisps to make his English sound sweet and keeps knives and pins “to give away to pretty wives”. The squire to one of these characters provides the idea of using a (*) cartwheel to divide a smell into twelve shares to give to other members of this profession. In a tale told by one of these people, a demon wins a frying pan and the body and soul of a summoner. In revenge, The Summoner tells a tale in which Thomas farts on the hand of one of these people. For 10 points, Huberd from *The Canterbury Tales* is what sort of religious mendicant?

ANSWER: friar [do NOT prompt on or accept “monk” or “priest” or any other such word, since a friar is none of these things]

8. In one poem from this collection, deep channels likened to “water-oxen” lie in “mountains of magnet,” where the condemned speaker’s sleepless eyes “look toward a north / of metals and of cliffs / where [his] veinless body / consults decks of frozen cards.” A girl who won’t drink an Englishman’s gin “comes down an amphibious path / of crystals and of laurels” in a poem from this collection, which includes poems describing women’s breasts as “bouquets of hyacinths” and “smoky anvils” “moaning round songs” in its seminal translation by (*) Langston Hughes. A discreet “gentleman” leads a woman who claims to be a virgin to the river in this collection’s poem “The Faithless Wife.” Three poems pairing cities with archangels appear in this collection, which includes a poem that evokes a girl “dreaming in the bitter sea” through the refrain “Green, how I want you green.” For 10 points, name this poetry collection that employs the Roma people as a motif, written by Federico García Lorca.

ANSWER: *Gypsy Ballads* [or *Romancero gitano*]

9. This is the title adjective of a novel in which a newspaper editor is jailed for claiming that the Head of State and his wife were involved in heroin smuggling, leading to that editor being killed by a mail bomb. In that novel with this title adjective, a girl is made to climb into a bathtub and have boiling water poured on her feet as punishment for spending time with her pagan grandfather. This is the last title word of a novel in which a woman says “Hell no” when the mayor asks her to be his maid, and then she knocks down the mayor. This is the title adjective of a novel in which (*) Eugene Achike’s authoritarian parenting stifles Jaja and Kambili. This is the color of the hibiscus in the title of the first novel by Chimamanda Adichie, and appears in the title of a novel in which the lounge singer Shug Avery becomes close to Celie, who is unhappily married to Mister. For 10 points, name this color that titles a novel by Alice Walker.

ANSWER: purple

10. In this story, a “vast image” is built up by an anecdote about a man who defects from a German’s tiny opposition group by standing up and shouting, “Credo!” This story ends with a character entreating listeners to “be straight and manly” by opening their books and verifying their accounts. The “magic-lantern business” of candles is a bridge too far for this story’s protagonist, who repeatedly claims, “Sha, ‘s nothing” after collapsing in a bar and biting off part of his tongue. This story’s central characters praise the grandeur of the (*) Jesuits and debate Leo XIII’s motto before discussing papal infallibility. This story ends at a retreat for businessmen with a hollow sermon on the parable of the unjust steward given by Father Purdon. For 10 points, name this story in which M’Coy, Cunningham and Power stage a spiritual intervention for the reluctant ex-Protestant Kernan, the penultimate story in *Dubliners*.

ANSWER: “Grace”

11. This novel’s narrator lights the candles in an ornate library full of English books and photographs dedicated to “slave girls” after realizing he loved a widow who commits suicide after murdering the unfaithful man that she is forced to remarry, in order to care for her two sons. The protagonist of this novel reveals his past after drunkenly reciting Ford Madox Ford’s “Antwerp” to the narrator, who earned a Ph.D. in English poetry. Female genital mutilation is debated by the hard-drinking 70-year-old multiple-divorcée (*) Bint Mazjoub and the promiscuous Wad Rayyes in this novel, whose narrator claims he is “no Othello” during his murder trial. In this novel, an economist drives British women to suicide by seducing them with Orientalist lies, before killing his wife Jean Morris. For 10 points, name this novel in which a British-educated Arab is driven mad by the story of Mustafa Sa’eed after returning to Sudan, a work by Tayeb Salih.

ANSWER: *Season of Migration to the North* [or *Mawsim al-Hiġra ilā ash-Shamāl*]

12. One character in this play remarks that he heard that the oranges abroad are painted to disguise their natural green color, after learning about a dinner guest’s trips to Africa and Yugoslavia in a sardine boat. This play’s protagonist refuses to be dissuaded from seeking legal action against a “punk” who “ain’t right” by a lawyer who no longer keeps a pistol in his office because Americans have learned to “settle for half.” In this play, the protagonist attacks a jazz-singing blond under the pretext of giving a (*) boxing lesson. Beatrice grows increasingly resentful of her lack of intimacy with this play’s protagonist, whose creepy relationship with his stenographer niece Catherine is perturbed by her decision to marry the undocumented immigrant Rodolpho, whom they are sheltering with his brother Marco. For 10 points, name this play about the Brooklyn longshoreman Eddie Carbone, a work by Arthur Miller.

ANSWER: A *View from the Bridge*

13. In this novel, a drunk man in a café repeatedly badgers people to answer variations on the riddle that the Sphinx asked Oedipus. In this novel’s prologue, a man gets absorbed in examining a cube of gray lava on a desk, and crucially neglects to turn off the light in the study. A woman in this novel looked out her window and saw a man in a raincoat clipping the bell-line on the gate of a house surrounded by spindle trees on the Rue des Arpenteurs. While trying to blend in with his surroundings, the protagonist of this novel frequently imagines the disguises that would be worn by his boss, the (*) spymaster Fabius. Its protagonist tries to convince Commissioner Laurent that the central death wasn’t a suicide, before interrogating the shady gynecologist Dr. Guard, who won’t produce a body. For 10 points, secret agent Wallas tries to solve the murder of Daniel Dupont in what first novel by Alain Robbe-Grillet?

ANSWER: *The Erasers* [or *Les gomme*s]

14. One character claims that a Christian painter of these animals “succeeds no better than the antediluvian Hindoo.” A character who takes his name from these animals yells secrets into Mr. Yod’s grotto while dating a “village drunk” who attempts to secure a record deal for the neglected “Bored Twins.” One of these animals inspires a digression that alludes to a tall phantom of the Hartz forest and Peruvians who dread the Andes, and includes an extended comparison to the “Xerxes” of a vast herd of Prairie horses. (*) Saluni blinds herself by staring into at an eclipse out of jealousy over her love triangle with one of these animals named Sharisha and her “Caller” in a Zakes Mda novel. “The heartless void and immensities of the universe” “shadow forth” from the color of one of these animals that kills Steelkit’s flogger Radney in a story from the Town-Ho Inn narrated by their sleeping stabber Tashtego. For 10 points, name these animals exemplified by Ahab’s white quarry Moby Dick.

ANSWER: toothed whales [or cetaceans; accept Odontoceti; accept North Atlantic rights (which are “indiscriminately designated by all the following titles: The Whale; the Greenland Whale; the Black Whale; the Great Whale; the True Whale; the Right Whale”); accept sperm whales (“This whale, among the English of old vaguely known as the Trumpa whale, and the Physeter whale, and the Anvil Headed whale, is the present Cachalot of the French, and the Pottsfich of the Germans, and the Macrocephalus of the Long Words”); accept Eubalaena glacialis or Physeter macrocephalus; accept any other answers that are obviously about whales; I guess you should prompt on “fish” or equivalents in honor of Ishmael’s anti-Linnaean classification in the chapter “Cetology”]

15. In this state, one character sees a cricket fill up the moon the night before visiting the grave of his grandmother, with whom he once saw the Tai-me bundle. “Known people” from this state include a girl as pretty as a “black colt” and one swung by a “Texas boy” during a squaredance to “Chicken Reel” before a planned Farmers’ Association Riot. An episode of *Oprah* on “saved lives” leads a law intern from this state to demand a woman with “head rights” here justify her adoption of a catatonic orphan she is handed outside a café in this state when her car breaks down on the way to Tucson. (*) N. Scott Momaday’s *The Way to Rainy Mountain* chronicles his Nation’s migration from Montana to this birth state of a Native orphan named Turtle in Barbara Kingsolver’s *Pigs in Heaven* and *The Bean Trees*. An actual turtle is flipped over by a truck in this state after a migrant meets the preacher Jim Casy. For 10 points, name this home state of the Joad family in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

ANSWER: Oklahoma! [accept OK or the Sooner State; prompt on “Cherokee” or “Kiowa Nations”]

16. Part of this poem is set “when the stars glisten’d / All night long, on the prong of a moss-scallop’d stake”. One character in this poem exclaims: “O how joys, dreads, convolutions, human shapes, and all shapes, spring as from graves around me!”. Another character in this poem asks: “Low-hanging moon! What is that dusky spot in your brown yellow?” after earlier crying: “Shine! shine! shine! / Pour down your warmth, great Sun!”. Near the end of this poem, the speaker declares: “A thousand (*) warbling echoes have started to life within me, / Never to die”. One character is called “the solitary guest from Alabama” in this poem, which is set on Paumanok’s shore. In this first poem in the “Sea-Drift” section of a certain collection, the speaker hears the ocean lisp “the low and delicious word *death*”. For 10 points, name this recollection of the childhood memory of hearing a mockingbird cry out for its lost mate, a poem by Walt Whitman.

ANSWER: “Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking”

17. This author described how his father died after accusing his mother of having had an affair with a health spa doctor with whom she spoke in German. When a character created by this author hears his new wife say “Children last” to chastise children trying to take a seat on a streetcar, he misunderstands her to be stating that having children is the last thing she’s thinking of. That book by him opens with a man teaching the Chinese characters for Mencius’ name to a nine-year-old boy who claims to prefer (*) books to candies. This author’s earliest memory was of a man threatening to cut out his tongue if he revealed that he was sleeping with this author’s nanny. The protagonist of his only novel is kicked out of his home by his housekeeper-turned wife, Therese, and is a sinologist named Peter Kein, who sets fire to his precious library. This author’s trilogy of memoirs includes *The Play of the Eyes* and *The Tongue Set Free*. For 10 points, name this author of the novel *Auto-da-Fé*, a Bulgarian Nobel laureate.

ANSWER: Elias Canetti

18. After “a thousand” visions of this character trouble another’s sleep, he gets up and sees this character making a “ceaseless low cry” while carrying a candle up the stairs. This character is the speaker of a poem that ends, “Don’t think it’s only the heart that b-b-b-breaks.” The Bougainvillean girl Matilda sees mannequins of this character and her creator at Eastgate House at the end of a novel by Lloyd Jones. One character falsely claims that this character owns dogs that eat veal cutlets and that she eats cake while sitting in a velvet (*) coach. As she dies, this character repeats the phrases “What have I done” and “Take the pencil and write under my name, ‘I forgive her.’” She encourages her adopted daughter to break the heart of an orphan who is in the custody of her lawyer Mr. Jaggers. For 10 points, name this character who stops all the clocks in Satis House after Compeyson jilts her at the altar in *Great Expectations*.

ANSWER: Miss Havisham

19. One story by this author juxtaposes an old woman plucking the heart out of a dove, with a boy strangling a dove to death as his sister tries to stop him. In another story by this author, Carruther wrongly accuses Martin of being the one who farts in the elevator every morning. One story by this author of “The Gingerbread House” illustrates a series of scenarios in which the protagonist does or does not have sex in a bathtub with her boyfriend Jack or employer Mr. Tucker, while taking care of Jimmy, Bitsy, and the baby; that story is “The (*) Babysitter”. In the most famous novel by this author of *Pricksongs and Descants*, the protagonist has a sexual encounter with Ethel Rosenberg in Sing Sing shortly before she is executed in Times Square, after which Uncle Sam sodomizes that protagonist, Richard Nixon. For 10 points, name this American postmodernist author of *The Public Burning*.

ANSWER: Robert (Lowell) Coover

20. This work’s narrator explains a toponym with the story of a captain who put a stop to a death penalty for people over forty by threading an ant through a jewel to prevent an invasion. After her arsonist great-granddaughter Raka arrives at Carignano, Nanda Kaul reflects on this work’s claim that women who live alone should have dilapidated houses in Anita Desai’s *Fire on the Mountain*. This work inspires Jane Takagi-Little to make documentaries like *My American Wife!* in *My Year of Meats*, which quotes sections like its attack on carpenters’ (*) eating habits to preface chapters with titles like “The Gods-Absent Month.” Idiosyncratic lists such as “things without merit” and “unsuitable things” punctuate this work, whose narrator dominates poetry contests against other ladies-in-waiting and lovers like Tadanobu, to win favor with the Empress. 10 points, name this disorganized *zuihitsu* collecting Heian court anecdotes by Sei Shōnagan.

ANSWER: *The Pillow Book* [or *Makura no Sōshi*]