

## 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 2

1. This character picks up a jug to demonstrate the “democracy of atoms” and illustrates the “nonce-rules” used to create illusory connectedness with a syllogism about the cheese-eating pig Old Snaggle. The “will” of this character mandates that the “Gentlest of men, most winning of manner” “must live in some region / Other than this.” One critic argued that this character suits elegy because “a man can die on but his death-day” in a dissent from the “Shylockian plural” applied to him by R. W. (\*) Chambers to embody a “wilderness.” This “ghostly and grisly guest in his terrors” waxes with “soul-gore seething.” A “brute existent” falls through earth to learn from this character about the Shaper but instead is told to “seek out gold and sit on it” by this nihilist, whose hoard is raided by Wiglaf after its defeat. For 10 points, name this character deemed Fafnir’s only real counterpart in “The Monsters and the Critics,” Tolkien’s analysis of *Beowulf*.  
ANSWER: the dragon from *Grendel* and *Beowulf* [accept kennings that refer to the dragon]

2. The narrator of one this author’s works tells the story of the False Dmitri, who was happy as an impostor, until he is believed to be the real Dmitri and feels trapped in the identity of another person. One of this author’s title characters watches doctors pierce the heart of his father’s corpse, following a provision in that father’s will, and recalls his chamberlain uncle being carried around by servants while dying of dropsy. This author wrote that we must learn to use solitude, because solitude is difficult, and we must trust in what is difficult, in the seventh of ten (\*) posthumously collected and published missives. He declared that “Nobody can advise or help you. [...] Go into yourself” in that correspondence with Franz Xaver Kappus. His only novel is the fictional diary of the title Danish poet in Paris. For 10 points, name this German author of *Letters to a Young Poet* and the novel *The Notebooks of Malte Laurits Brigge*.  
ANSWER: Rainer Maria Rilke

3. A member of this organization demonstrates he has taken to the country by learning to dance “The Waves of Tory” and arguing with an old woman who blames a drought on Jupiter Pluvius. Another member glares from only one eye while receiving visitors who imagine he would never forgive them for a “gimcrack excursion.” By agreeing that the first thing God created was a capitalist, a “big” member of this organization riles up a Catholic guard as they play cards with Jeremiah Donovan. A meringue-loving member of this organization thumps his stick at an irritating (\*) organ grinder. The naïve Bonaparte and Noble keep this organization’s members Hawkins and Belcher hostage in Frank O’Connor’s “Guests of the Nation.” Two girls debate whether Cyril in London or Benny in Ceylon should be bequeathed the watch of a high-ranking member. For 10 points, name this organization that employed Josephine and Constantia’s dead father in Katherine Mansfield’s “The Daughters of the Late Colonel.”  
ANSWER: British Army [accept clear-knowledge equivalents; prompt on less specific answers related to “soldiers” or the “military”, asking for the country]

4. After this composer’s music is mixed up in a precentor’s finger-exercises, a pastor pays thirty *aurar* to hear a piece by him performed at a grave by an adoptee of Brekkukot. Because the bassist is away, a deaf musician struggles her first time rehearsing a piece by this composer, who “makes a river flow through the eye of a needle” according to a poem by Tomas Tranströmer. This composer’s music makes a woman fall ill at a party after a “good Samaritan” repeatedly tells her that he was homosexual. In *The (\*) Fish Can Sing*, Álfgrímur requests the world-renowned Garðar Hólm to perform a piece by this man, who composed the three pieces that the Maggiore Quartet plays at a Vienna concert in *An Equal Music*. The wife of a Commission officer plays a piece by him while forcing a confession from the bound Roberto. For 10 points, name this composer of the quartet that Dr. Miranda plays while torturing Paulina in *Death and the Maiden*.  
ANSWER: Franz Peter Schubert [accept The Little Mushroom or Schwammerl]

5. An incomplete work featuring this character ends with him misidentifying a crocodile as a golden eagle. An old man pretends to die when this character starts aggressively trying to polish the shoes of the old man's niece, even though she is barefoot. This character's wife is having an affair with an Egyptian statue in a work featuring his Conscience, who is a tall pyjama-wearing man that is kept in a suitcase. This character stands on a rock and prays while an underling is attacked by a (\*) bear in a work in which he also stuffs all of his country's lawyers down a chute that leads to the slushpile, where they are debrained. In one work, this character takes over the house of a polyhedron farmer named Peardrop. Tsar Alexis of All the Ruskies helps Prince Billikins defeat this character, who claims to be a professor of pataphysics, and who betrays Wenceslas to become ruler of Baloney in a play named for him as king. For 10 points, name this protagonist of a trilogy of plays by Alfred Jarry.

ANSWER: Ubu [or Père Ubu; or Pa Ubu; Papa Ubu; or Father Ubu; or King Ubu; or Ubu Roi]

6. In this play, a husband tells his wife "if you can contrive any way of being a whore without making me a cuckold, do it", to which she replies: "you would allow me the sin but rob me of the pleasure". One character in this play sings a song in which every stanza mentions "trifles", while another character uses the phrase "as the saying is" in nearly all of his lines. When one character in this play entrusts another with a cashbox containing two hundred pounds, the latter begins to suspect the former of being a (\*) highwayman. In this play, a priest who claims to be from Brussels is tricked into admitting that he's really Irish. The innkeeper's daughter Cherry warns one protagonist of this play about Gibbet's plan to rob the house of Lady Bountiful. Mrs. Sullen flirts with one of this play's protagonists, while the other marries Mrs. Sullen's sister-in-law Dorinda. For 10 points, name this Restoration comedy about the fortune-hunting schemes of Archer and Aimwell, by George Farquhar.

ANSWER: *The Beaux' Stratagem*

7. This book uses a Laurel and Hardy film—in which Laurel plays a soldier who doesn't know that World War One is over and shoots at every passing plane—as an analogy for reactionaries who resist dialectical thinking. One chapter of this book tells the story of a man whose values shifted from devout Catholicism to "the ethic of loyalty" to finally an embrace of the New Faith. This book's opening chapter discusses a fictional Mongolian medicine that makes one lose all philosophical worries. One chapter of this book analyzes several long excerpts from the book *We Were in* (\*) *Auschwitz*. "The Pills of Murti-Bung" is the opening of this book, which discusses Tadeusz Borowski as "The Disappointed Lover", in one of four profiles of intellectuals named by the Greek letters: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and Delta. For 10 points, name this work examining the psychology of those who live under totalitarian rule, by Czeslaw Milosz.

ANSWER: *The Captive Mind* [or Zniewolony umysl]

8. NOTE: Exact phrase is required

This phrase titles a book whose protagonist analyzes the sentence "His face was drawn but the curtains were real" to explain why there are no jokes in the book. The protagonist of a book titled for this phrase carries a bottle of red food coloring with him, because he refuses to eat food that is yellow or brown. That protagonist from a book with this title finds a hidden cache of letters that his mother wrote to him every week, proving that his father lied about her being dead. This phrase identifies the most famous "negative (\*) clue" in mystery fiction, which occurs in a story in which curried mutton laced with opium was used as part of a scheme to kidnap a racehorse. This phrase names a novel in which Wellington is stabbed with a garden fork, and the autistic boy Christopher sets out to investigate who killed him; that book is by Mark Haddon. For 10 points, name this phrase from the Sherlock Holmes story "Silver Blaze" that refers to the fact that a canine did not bark.

ANSWER: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time [be generous, and prompt on a partial answer]

9. This poet declared "We must uncenter our minds from ourselves" in a poem that asks "Now the spoiler has come; does it care?" and then replies "Not faintly". One poem by this author says to the reader: "You are not Catullus, you know, / To lampoon these crude sketches of Caesar". In a poem by him, a woman must ford a flooding river on horseback to provide Christmas presents for her daughter Christine, because her husband has forgotten to buy them. He notes that "the flower fades to make fruit, the fruit rots to make earth" in a poem that describes America "heavily thickening to (\*) empire / And protest". One poem by this author of "Carmel Point" and "Be Angry at the Sun" describes an animal whose "broken pillar of the wing jags from the clotted shoulder". For 10 points, "Shine, Perishing Republic" is by what Californian environmentalist poet of works like "Roan Stallion" and "Hurt Hawks"?

ANSWER: Robinson Jeffers

10. One character in this novel rescues his future wife from a well where she is menaced by a toad and snake while hiding from soldiers with her dying baby brother. Another character in this novel conceals scissors in her bodice to threaten her leprous new husband, whom she escapes by riding off on a donkey with one of the bearers of her wedding sedan chair. This novel's central family battles a pack of monstrous corpse-eating dogs led by Red, Green and Blackie. In this novel, (\*) Spotted Neck is murdered by a rival bandit, who kills Black Eye to take over the Iron Society after setting up a love nest in Saltwater Gap with Passion, who is subsequently called "Second Grandma" to Commander Yu's "Granddad." For 10 points, name this extremely violent novel chronicling a winemaking family of resistance fighters in Northeast Gaomi Township during the Second Sino-Japanese War, written by Mo Yan.

ANSWER: **Red Sorghum**: *A Novel of China* [or **Red Sorghum** *Clan*; or **Red Sorghum** *Family*; or **Hóng Gāoliáng Jiāzú**]

11. The title character of one story by this author spots her husband fooling around with another woman near a beehive, but is protected from the gendarmes by the other villagers after she repeatedly stabs her rival to death through the neck. This author created a character who laughs with her lover about the fact that army sapping parties have a life expectancy of nine minutes, shortly before she is harassed by a vaudevillian to whom she'd given bad a review. One story by her ends with a dream in which a man cries: "Murderer! [...] Cannibal!" as a woman eats the (\*) blossoms off of a tree. This author of "Maria Concepcion" wrote a novella in which Adam Barclay dies from the influenza epidemic that infects Miranda, and a story in which Laura muses about euthanizing Eugenio while the Mexican revolutionary Braggioni serenades her. For 10 points, name this Southern writer of "Flowering Judas" and *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*.

ANSWER: Katherine Anne **Porter**

12. A poem titled for this figure describes "Blind buds that snows have shaken, / Wild leaves that winds have taken, / Red strays of ruined springs". Another poem titled for this figure asks: "Will ye bridle the deep sea with reins, will ye chasten the high sea with rods?" and also asks why man should "bring fresh grief to blacken his years". One poem declares that this figure's "languid lips are sweeter / Than love's who fears to greet her / To men that mix and meet her". A poem titled for this figure declares that: (\*) "shark-toothed and serpentine-curved / Rolls under the whitening wind of the future, the wave of the world". A place belonging to this figure is "where all trouble seems / Dead winds' and spent waves' riot / In doubtful dreams of dreams". A poem titled for this deity begins: "I have lived long enough, having seen one thing, that love hath an end". For 10 points, name this Roman goddess whose garden was described by Algernon Charles Swinburne, who also wrote a "Hymn to" her.

ANSWER: **Proserpine**

13. In this novel, the protagonist's co-workers eat Friday lunches in the bakery bathroom, where they learn that a Puerto Rican from the Mission fled New York after his rich boss's daughter fell in love with him during Spanish lessons. After an unfamiliar woman wishes "Merry Christmas" to this novel's protagonist, he thinks through the Christmas story, echoing his earlier vision of Christ coming up to Tucson to play poker with a redhead and a Swede before they board a nightmare train to their deaths. The protagonist of this novel remembers visiting (\*) Stumpy Tesla's Shale City brothel with his best friend Bill Harper while he is being masturbated by his day nurse, with whom he can only communicate by "tapping" his head against a pillow. For 10 points, name this horrific journey into the trapped mind of the limbless, faceless World War I artillery victim Joe Bonham, an antiwar polemic by Dalton Trumbo.

ANSWER: **Johnny Got His Gun**

14. A native of this country, who is mistaken for a Ukrainian by George Bush Sr. at Babi Yar, is barged in on naked during Yeltsin's coup by his infatuated American roommate, who writes a thesis on masculinity in *King Lear*. A drunkard jokes that a parish priest should pray for rain to stop floods in this country, where a miller is beheaded for singing an "insurrectionist" song about maiden. A Greenpeace activist from this country delivers detective's papers to a gun-toting zealot who denies the occurrence of a massacre that almost kills his mother in this country, where he founds the (\*) Beatles cover band Dead Souls. Entombing stillborn twins fails to stop the moonlit rampages of an alleged *vila* that delay building a *kapia* in this home country of Jozef Pronek and the fired ferryman Jadak, where Abidaga oversees a project for the native Grand Vizier Mehmed Pasha. For 10 points, name this birthplace of the authors of *Nowhere Man*, Aleksandar Hemon, and *The Bridge on the Drina*, Ivo Andrić.

ANSWER: **Bosnia** and Herzegovina [be nice and prompt on "**Yugoslavia**;" likewise prompt on "**Ottoman Empire**" or "**Turkish Empire**" or "**Devlet-i Aliyye-i Osmâniyye**" or equivalents]

15. This author wrote about attempts to stealthily cut handkerchiefs out of shirts before those shirts are taken away to be replaced, in a chapter that also describes an “Exchange Market” involving trading Mahorca tobacco for bread. This author described a correspondence with a man from his past named Müller, which grew out of letters complaining about defective varnish. In one work, he described nurses in an infirmary ward called Ka-Be confiscating spoons from the ill and selling them for profit. He narrates his attempt to recite from memory the (\*) Ulysses episode from Dante’s *Inferno* while fetching soup with a man to whom he’s giving a language lesson in that work, which includes the chapter “The Drowned and the Saved”. Another book by him contains chapters analogizing autobiographical episodes to chemical elements like “Argon”. For 10 points, name this writer of *The Periodic Table* and *If This Is a Man*, an Italian writer known for his Holocaust memoirs.

ANSWER: Primo Levi

16. The narrator of a story by this author has a dinner date interrupted by her student delivering Valentine cookies and singing *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Two of this author’s characters gossip about crushes during the school operetta *The Pied Piper* before falling out after getting drunk at the Gay-La Dance Hall. The sheep-killing dog Major is shot despite the prayers of the newly Anglican daughter of an atheist encyclopedia saleswoman and a Flats Road fox farmer in a story by this author, who wrote a work in which the grandfather of “three little Sams” recites Joaquin Miller’s (\*) “Columbus” before his valve surgery. Dr. Fox fiats engagement with a new teacher at the Amundsen sanatorium in a story by this author of a cycle recounting Del Jordan’s childhood in Jubilee and a story in which Janet learns Ganymede was a cupbearer from her hospitalized father after visiting a planetarium. For 10 points, name this author of *Lives of Girls and Women* and *The Moons of Jupiter*.

ANSWER: Alice Ann Munro [or Alice Ann Laidlaw]

17. When one character in this play meets a man named Elijah, he replies: “Why, I had no idea you were still around. I’ve read some of your stuff.” One scene in this play ends with one character asking: “Why [...] have you moved so far away from me?”, to which another replies: “All motion is relative. Perhaps it is *you* who have moved away—by standing still.” One character in this play gets himself named “temporary honorary Colonel” after he objects to that title being bestowed only on his opponent. One character in this play collapses and dies when (\*) radio men turn off his microphone as he tries to give a speech to a disinterested crowd. His rival places a copy of the Bible and one other book together in his briefcase at this play’s close. The cynical journalist E.F. Hornbeck is based on H.L. Mencken, and Henry Drummond is based on Clarence Darrow in, for 10 points, what play by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee that fictionalizes the Scopes Monkey Trial?

ANSWER: Inherit the Wind

18. In one novel by this author, the protagonist watches a woman slice paper with a samurai sword, and then later has to decide which of three letters to send to apologize for drunkenly beating up that Jewish anthropologist in his cellar, after spilling wine on the carpet of his wife’s lover. One of this author’s protagonists abruptly breaks off contact with a friend out of guilt for transcribing their philosophical conversations into a novel without asking the friend’s permission. The psychoanalyst (\*) Palmer Anderson tries to steal Antonia, the wife of Martin Lynch-Gibbon, in a novel by this author. A book titled “Elegy for” this author chronicled her struggle with Alzheimer’s and was written by her husband John Bayley. With the help of “Finn” O’Finney, the aging canine actor Mister Mars is kidnapped by the philosophical author Jake Donaghue in her breakout novel. For 10 points, name this 20<sup>th</sup>-century British author of *A Severed Head* and *Under the Net*.

ANSWER: (Jean) Iris Murdoch

19. In one scene, this man says goodbye to his best friend by paying three coins, which he owes from a feast for which the friend had the gall to charge his guests. This man’s father survives an outbreak of plague when his mother covers him in cornmeal porridge. This man becomes enamored of a French girl named Angélique, who commits suicide after he unlocks the memories that precede her conversion into a human memory palace by a Turkish pasha. His childhood friendship with Ago Vespucci and Nino (\*) Argalia is fictionalized in a Salman Rushdie novel. In real life, this man wrote a work in which the marriage-broker Ligurio is involved in a scheme surrounding a potion that will purportedly impregnate a woman but kill the first man who has sex with her. Callimaco’s trickery allows him to sleep with Lucrezia in that play by him, named for the plant used to make the potion. For 10 points, name this Florentine author of *The Mandrake*.

ANSWER: Niccolo Machiavelli

20. This poet wrote that “High up there are no thorns to prod” in a poem that declares that “they who plod / Their rugged way, unhelped, to God / are heroes”. This poet paid homage to a man whose “kindness followed his horizon’s rim” and who was “no miser in the good he held”. This poet of “Not They Who Soar” recalled a time when “The plant of freedom upward sprung, / And spread its leaves so fresh and young” in a poem that tells its addressees: “Thy name is writ on (\*) Glory’s scroll / In characters of fire”. He described scars that “pulse again with a keener sting” in a poem that also describes a sound that “is not a carol of joy or glee”, but a prayer sung from the “heart’s deep core”. For 10 points each, name this Harlem Renaissance poet of *Lyrics of Lowly Life*, whose poem “Sympathy” contains the line “I know why the caged bird sings”.  
ANSWER: Paul Laurence Dunbar