

It's Lit

Written by Auroni Gupta, Jason Cheng, and Eliza Grames

Packet 4

1. **The narrator of a fictional writing of this type impulsively kisses a photograph of her sister's infant and claims it as hers. A political activist named Jing is tortured by having "pepper water" poured into his nose in Yang Gang's "Fragment from a Lost" writing of this type. The narrator of another fictional writing of this type imagines that he has earned the enmity of Mr. Chao for trampling on Mr. Ku Chiu's account sheets twenty years prior. The bisexual tubercular narrator falls madly in love with a tall, handsome Singaporean man, in one of these stories titled for (*) Miss Sophia, written by Ding Ling. The first story in the collection *Call to Arms* is styled as a writing of this type, whose narrator issues the warning "Save the children..." after seeing the words "Eat people" appear between the lines of Confucian texts. For 10 points, Lu Xun wrote a Gogol-inspired story styled as what kind of record kept by a madman?**

ANSWER: diaries [or journals]

<AG, Short Fiction>

2. **A poem inspired by a visit to this present-day country notes that "maps can really point to places / Where life is evil now," to substantiate its opening claim that "Here war is simple like a monument." After visiting this country in 1934, Langston Hughes urged it to "Crush the enemies of land and bread and freedom," in a poem beseeching it to "Roar!" A set of "sonnets from" this country were extracted the travel book *Journey to a War*, co-written by Christopher (*) Isherwood and W.H. Auden. A poet developed the "ideogrammic method" of composition while consulting notes on the prosody of this country written by art historian Ernest Fenollosa, allowing him to translate a poem urging its addressee to "please let me know beforehand" so that the speaker can "come out to meet you, / As far as Cho-fu-sa." For 10 points, Ezra Pound's volume *Cathay* contains translations by poets from what country, such as Li Po?**

ANSWER: China [or Zhongguo]

<AG, Poetry>

3. **The protagonist of a novel by this author joyfully skates on a track of "ice or glass" while touring through a woman's private set of "inner chambers." This author described a tormented captive Abyssinian lion in "The Actor," one of thirty-eight prose sketches drawn from his years as an expatriate in a European capital. This non-English author of a set of *Berlin Stories* died of a heart attack in a field of snow on one of his regular walks outside the Herisau (*) sanatorium. In an *NYRB* article titled for the "Genius" of this author, J.M. Coetzee reviewed his novel structured as the diary of a student taking the course "How Should a Boy Behave?" at the Benjamenta Institute. This schizophrenic author coded his writings in tiny pencil-drawn sheets called "microscripts." For 10 points, name this reclusive Swiss author of *Jakob van Gunten*.**

ANSWER: Robert Walser

<AG, Long Fiction>

4. **Though this character fails to kill a stag by firing a cherry seed between its antlers, he spots the animal again a year later with a whole tree atop its head, allowing him to enjoy a meal of venison with cherry sauce. The poet Unding discovers that the illustrations from a book about this character have vanished because he has come to life, at the start of Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky's novel about his *Return*. At the start of an earlier novel about him, this character abandons his horse after a snowstorm leaves it dangling from the weathervane of a church steeple. (*) Rudolf Erich Raspe published the *Narrative of [this***

character]'s *Marvellous Travels and Campaigns in Russia* anonymously, for fear of legal action from his real-life counterpart. In that novel, this character is fired out of the Tower of London after falling asleep in a cannon, and retrieves an axe he had flung into space by climbing a beanstalk to the Moon. For 10 points, name this fictional German nobleman known for telling tall tales about his adventures.

ANSWER: Baron Munchausen

<AG, Long Fiction>

5. **A character in this play is spared from having his eyes put out, by pointing out that the fire refuses to grow hot enough to heat the iron. One of this play's characters mopes that "life is as tedious as a twice-told tale / Vexing the dull ear of a drowsy man," after a storm wipes out his entire fleet. A character in this play inexplicably decides to escape a castle by leaping to his death from its wall. This play ends with a character declaring that, so long as it is unified, England "never shall, / Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror," shortly after its title character dies from being (*) poisoned by a monk. The title character of this play orders a second coronation, prompting Salisbury to declare that "to gild refined gold, to paint the lily" is "wasteful and ridiculous excess." This play opens with an ambassador from France demanding that its title character abdicate in favor of his nephew Arthur, and Eleanor recognizing the Bastard as the son of Richard the Lionhearted. For 10 points, name this Shakespeare play starring a weak king.**

ANSWER: *The Life and Death of King John*

<AG, Drama>

6. **In a 2007 novel, this woman learns from her blind grandmother that each human has a traveling butterfly lodged in their pelvic bone. By repudiating this woman, one becomes a "son of Nothingness" whose "beginnings are in his own self," according to an essay written in 1945 while its author was stationed in Paris as a diplomat. Laura Esquivel uses this woman's birthname throughout her fourth novel, which tells her story. An essay that begins by examining the phrase "¡Viva (*) Mexico, hijos de la chingada!" describes how the adjectival form of her name is used to denote traitors to their own culture. The memoirs of Bernal Diaz recount the baptism of this woman after she was gifted by the Chontal Maya, and how she gave birth to Martin, the first *mestizo*. For 10 points, Octavio Paz's *The Labyrinth of Solitude* characterizes the Mexican people as "the sons" of what woman, who served as translator and concubine to Hernan Cortes?**

ANSWER: La Malinche [or Malinalli; or Malintzin; or Doña Marina]

<AG, Miscellaneous>

7. **A girl likened to a "proud" warrior in this conflict who was "murdered with his peers" arises to "compose man's image and his cry" in the poem "The Sorrow of Love." A poetic passage about warships traveling through the "friendly silences of the moon" to fight in this conflict inspired the title of a prose work positing a duality between the "Anima Hominis" and "anima mundi." The speaker of a poem from the volume *Responsibilities* wonders if a woman with "beauty like a tightened bow" who filled the speaker's days "with misery" could spark a (*) second instance of this conflict, asking if there was another city "for her to burn?" The poem "Leda and the Swan" implicates the union of its title pair as the catalyst for this conflict by referencing "The broken wall, the burning roof and tower / And Agamemnon dead." For 10 points, name this conflict that W.B. Yeats invoked throughout his poetry by mythologizing Maud Gonne as Helen.**

ANSWER: Trojan War

<AG, Poetry>

8. **A poem by this author ends with an image of "two mouthfuls of silence" assembled together on the tiles. In a poem by him, the sight of a tree that "grasps the light-tone" forces**

the speaker to conclude: “there are still songs to sing beyond mankind.” Anne Carson’s study *Economy of the Unlost* examines this modern poet’s gradual adoption of arcane neologisms like “lightforce” and “threadsuns.” Nelly Sachs wrote that “we / really don’t know / what / counts” at the end of her poem “Zurich, At the Stork,” which commemorates her friendship with this poet. This author’s best-known poem discusses a man who “plays with his serpents,” asserting that “death comes as a (*) master from Germany.” That poem, which contrasts “your ashen hair Shulamith” with “your golden hair Margarete,” describes a man commanding Jews to dig a grave, and begins: “black milk of daybreak we drink it at nightfall.” For 10 points, name this Romanian-born German Holocaust survivor, who wrote the poem “Death Fugue.”

ANSWER: Paul Celan [or Paul Antschel]

<AG. Poetry>

9. A character in this novel delivers a monologue recounting how he yelled and danced at a tank until it opened fire at him. The protagonist of this novel catches an eagle during a hunt, but upon despairing at the prospect of its captivity, he strangles it. This novel ends with its main character stripping his shirt off and joining a group of running men. After being seduced by the pregnant white woman Angela St. John and killing an (*) albino who humiliates him at a rooster-pull contest, the protagonist of this novel moves to Los Angeles, where he earns the enmity of the corrupt police officer Martinez and is mocked as a “longhair” incapable of adapting to the modern world. This novel begins with the World War II veteran Abel returning to the Pueblo Reservation in New Mexico. For 10 points, name this 1968 novel which heralded the Native American Renaissance, by N. Scott Momaday.

ANSWER: House Made of Dawn

<AG, Long Fiction>

10. The protagonist of a story by this author is instructed to slaughter a large animal, but opts to use a hidden rifle rather than his knife, violating the law of the Preserve. A novel by this author ends with a woman finding her amputated left arm attached to a wall in her house. A cancer drug causes children of its users to develop “Duryea-Gode Disease,” in which they suffer progressively worse episodes of self-mutilation, in this author’s short novel *The Evening and the Morning and the Night*. Lien refuses to consume restorative “sterile (*) eggs” and raises her son Gan to serve as a human host for a Tlic named T’Gatoi, in her acclaimed story “Bloodchild.” In this author’s best known novel, the writer Dana repeatedly slips back in time to save the plantation owner Rufus, who is her ancestor because he had raped a slave. For 10 points, name this author of “Bloodchild” and *Kindred*, a prominent black female author of science fiction.

ANSWER: Octavia Butler

<JC, Long Fiction>

11. This author calls “attention with tears... to the barren / air that holds the world that was my world,” in a poem recounting a visit to his infant brother’s grave. This author asks “what else deflects us from the errors of our illusionary ways” in the second section of a long poem in free-verse couplets, in which he states that the title stuff “has to be the poem of our time” because it is “spiritual, believable enough / to get our attention.” This author of “Easter Morning” wrote that he has “perceived nothing completely, / that tomorrow a new (*) walk is a new walk,” at the end of his poem arising from a stroll over the dunes by the New Jersey shore. This author won the 1993 National Book Award for his single-sentence book length poem inspired by a Florida landfill. For 10 points, name this modern American poet of “Corsons Inlet” and *Garbage*, known for his innovative linking of clauses with colons.

ANSWER: A. R. Ammons [or Archie Randolph Ammons]

<AG, Poetry>

12. **This author wrote an oft-excerpted passage in which he is conscripted into a rowdy game of bicycle polo while wandering the lawn of his host's mansion. In another book, this author described being stiffed by a family of circus performers when he went from door to door in Vienna sketching portraits for two shillings apiece. Artemis Cooper's biography of this author relates how he led (*)** commando forces to kidnap Heinrich Kreipe, the leader of Nazi forces in occupied Crete. This author described his journey from the Mária Valéria bridge to the Iron Gate of the Danube in *Between the Woods and the Water*, picking up where his best-known book had left off. For 10 points, name this British travel writer, who chronicled his walk from Holland to Constantinople on foot in *A Time of Gifts*.

ANSWER: Patrick Leigh **Fermor**

<AG, Nonfiction>

13. **The speaker points this woman to architectural features of houses “made up of whitethorn neatly interwove, / As if here were those cooler shades of love.” This woman is told to “Take no care / For jewels for your gown or hair,” as “the leaves will strew / Gems in abundance upon you.” The speaker notes that when he or this woman “are made / A fable, song, or fleeting shade, / All love, all liking, all delight / Lies drowned with us in endless night.” The speaker of the poem laments that “Each flower has wept and bowed toward the east / Above an hour since, yet you not (*)** dressed,” to elaborate on his opening plea for this woman to “Get up! get up for shame!” This woman is asked to perform the title action of the poem with the speaker “while time serves, and we are but decaying.” For 10 points, name this woman who, in a poem by Robert Herrick, is “Going A-Maying.”

ANSWER: **Corinna**

<AG, Poetry>

14. **After his wife dies from cancer, an emotionally devastated character in this novel overwaters her pineapple plant until it withers. Near the end of this novel, its protagonist travels hundreds of miles from Izu in a taxi to bring food to her love interest. Two characters in this novel share the same dream about cleaning an apartment and stopping to eat at a ramen shop. Before succumbing to stab wounds inflicted by a patron of the gay bar she owns, this novel's (*)** transsexual character Eriko beats her attacker to death with a barbell. The protagonist of this novel, which is almost always published together with its author's novella *Moonlit Shadow*, falls in love with the flower shop assistant Yuichi while coming to terms with the death of her grandmother. For 10 points, name this novel about Mikage Sakurai's love of cooking, by Banana Yoshimoto.

ANSWER: **Kitchen** [or **Kitsuchen**]

<AG, Novel>

15. **In this play, a girl who thinks she is telekinetic licks menstrual blood off Kit's finger and says now she's a cannibal and might turn into a vampire. In an interview in this play, the “coffee coffee coffee”-loving Nell says there are a half dozen openings in computer sales at Prestel. Joyce says she wouldn't have miscarried if she wasn't taking care of the special needs Angie, the daughter of this play's protagonist who gave her up to drive across America in a fast car. In this play, Joan asks “have we all got (*)** dead lovers?” after Isabella describes a Rocky Mountain trapper named Jim Nugent shooting himself in the head and Nijo describes being the Emperor's concubine. In the first act of this play, the protagonist hosts a dinner party with Lady

Nijo, Dull Gret, Isabella Bird, Patient Griselda, and Pope Joan. For 10 points, name this play about Marlene, the managing director of an employment agency, written by Caryl Churchill.

ANSWER: **Top Girls**

<EG, Drama>

16. A set of children in this story are said to know only “the darkness of their lives, which was now closing in on them, and the darkness of the movies, which had blinded them to that other darkness.” In her dreams, a woman in this story is haunted by the agonized screams of her daughter Grace as she lay writhing in pain from polio. The narrator of this story is told how his uncle drunkenly ran down a hill with his guitar banging on his back, peed behind a tree, and died by being run over by a car filled with drunk (*) white men. This story begins with its narrator struggling to teach his algebra class after learning that the title character had been arrested for selling heroin. While living with his sister-in-law Isabel, the title character of this story sneaks off to Greenwich Village to mingle with musicians, skips school, and spends all of his time practicing the piano. For 10 points, name this story in which the narrator’s brother joins a jazz band, by James Baldwin.

ANSWER: “**Sonny’s Blues**”

<EG, Short Fiction>

17. As one of this author’s title characters exits the stage, a man calls up after her to “Bear witness that wherever you go, there are no gods.” In the fourth act of a play by this author, a table lifts up from the trembling floor and wine falls down a man’s jaw rather than pass through his lips. In that surviving example of a *fabula crepidata* by this author, Agamemnon and Menelaus serve as emissaries, and the fury Megara summons a ghost back from Hades. (*) Tiresias performs a ritual sacrifice in a lengthy augury scene, and Jocasta rips open her own womb, in this author’s adaptation of the Oedipus myth. The horrified gods reverse the rising of the sun after a banquet in which Atreus feeds the title character the bodies of his three sons, in the best-known play by this author. For 10 points, *Thyestes* was penned by what Roman dramatist, a philosopher who tutored Nero?

ANSWER: **Seneca** the Younger [or Lucius Annaeus **Seneca**]

18. A chapter devoted to this activity recounts how its author was nearly arrested for signaling an English warship while performing it. A Berlin shopkeeper suffers a fatal stroke while reaching for a money pot needed to finance an overseas trip to partake in this activity in the story “The Aurelian,” titled for an archaic name for its performers. In their 2000 study about this activity, Brian Boyd and Robert Michael Pyle incorporated a hitherto unpublished second afterword to the novel *The Gift*, translated by its author’s son (*) Dmitri. The Swiss-French governess Mademoiselle O accidentally sits on and crushes to death several specimens gathered during this activity, as recounted in the sixth chapter of *Speak, Memory*. For 10 points, name this branch of entomology avidly pursued by Vladimir Nabokov.

ANSWER: **lepidopterology** [or **lepidoptery**; or any answer having to do with collection or studying **butterflies** or **moths**; prompt on **entomology**]

<AG, Miscellaneous>

19. A character imagines the residents of this city speaking a language developed by American scientists to communicate with chimpanzees, called “jerkish.” A woman dreams of multicolored park benches floating down the river in this city at the end of a section of a novel marked “Soul and Body.” After breaking off his affair with the sculptor Daria, a dissident author cleans the streets of this city, in the novel *Love and Garbage*. A small-

town café waitress (*) packs all of her belongings into a single heavy suitcase upon relocating to this city, whose occupation she documents with her photographs. After returning to this city, a character is asked to retract his article comparing the communists of his country to Oedipus, and afterwards works as a window-washer. For 10 points, name this city that the adulterous surgeon Tomáš flees when Soviet tanks roll in, in Milan Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*.

ANSWER: **Prague** [or **Praha**]

<AG, Long Fiction>

20. When a character from this collection fires a pistol at his hand, a blue phosphorescence arrests the bullet in mid-air. In a story from this collection, Hernando observes a procession of cars fleeing the end of the world, and asks: "What do they mean, 'the world'?" In its epilogue, the narrator runs away before an image of the title character choking him to death can fully coalesce. A society built upon reverse-Jim Crow segregation admits two white travelers upon learning that cotton fields and other reminders of racism were (*) wiped away with the destruction of the Earth, in this collection's story "The Other Foot." A man replaces himself with a surrogate robot, who kills him and runs off with his wife, in this collection's story "Marionettes, Inc." In its best-known story, Wendy and Peter lock their parents George and Lydia in a virtual reality "nursery" where they are eaten by lions. For 10 points, "The Veldt" is one of several stories depicted on the tattooed body of a former carnival worker in what collection by Ray Bradbury?

ANSWER: *The **Illustrated Man***

<AG, Short Fiction>