

It's Lit

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Packet 5

1. In a story originally published in this collection, a lyrical passage comparing a river to a blue mirror reflecting all the stars in the sky precedes a woman waking up from a nightmare to find her child stabbed to death in a cradle. In a story from this collection, a man digs until he unearths an iron chest, but is denied access to the gold inside until he decapitates his employer's son Ivas. A powerful sorcerer identified as the Antichrist goes on a killing spree fueled by his thirst for his daughter Katerina in this collection's story "A (\*) Terrible Vengeance." This book is framed as a set of fantastical tales collected by the beekeeper Rudy Panko, such as "St. John's Eve." The thematically-similar followup to this collection, *Mirgorod*, contains the first draft of the novella *Taras Bulba*. For 10 points, name this first major book by Nikolai Gogol, a volume of stories drawn from rural life in his native Ukraine.

ANSWER: *Evenings on a Farm Near Dikanka* [or *Village Evenings Near Dikanka*; or *Večerá na hůtore bliz Dikán'ki*]

<AG, Short Fiction>

2. While editing its author's collected works, W.B. Yeats cut all but the first four lines of a poem titled for this quality; the outtakes, which he retitled "Proverbs," observe that "Some are born to sweet delight / Some are born to endless night." The poem "Spring" from a collection titled for this quality is built from three-syllable lines starting with "Sound the flute! / Now it's mute." This adjective describes the faces and the hands of children walking "two and two, in red, and blue, and green" in a poem about a procession to St. Paul's Cathedral. The lines: "To see a (\*) world in a grain of sand / And heaven in a wild flower, / Hold infinity in the palm of your hand, / And eternity in an hour," open a poem titled for the "Auguries" of this quality. The first three poems in a collection titled for this quality are "The Shepherd," "The Echoing Green," and a poem whose speaker asks of its subject, "Dost thou know who made thee?" For 10 points, "The Lamb" appears in a set of William Blake "songs" expressing what quality?

ANSWER: innocence [accept word forms, such as innocent]

<AG, Poetry>

3. In a poem by this author, the speaker and his lover are surrounded by "a silence already filled with noises, / A canvas on which emerges / A chorus of smiles, a winter morning," as they observe objects that each join "a neighbor, as though speech / Were a still performance." This author wrote that poetry is generated by "the extreme austerity of an almost empty mind / Colliding with the lush, Rousseau-like foliage of its desire to communicate / Something between breaths," in a poem titled for a dictum from Horace's *Ars Poetica*. W.H. Auden admitted to not (\*) understanding a word of the manuscript when he voted to award the 1956 Yale Younger Poets Prize to this author's first collection, *Some Trees*. This author of "And *Ut Pictura Poesis* Is Her Name" wrote a book-length poem describing an "affirmation that doesn't affirm anything," captured by "the right hand / Bigger than the head, thrust at the viewer," in a Parmigianino painting. For 10 points, name this ninety-year old poet of *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror*.

ANSWER: John Ashbery

<AG, Poetry>

4. The protagonist of a novel by this author hallucinates a crowd of people playing with snowballs outside as he chokes to death on poison fumes. Violet light generated from mercury lamps suffuses the stage in a play by this author, whose third act ends with a

woman cradling her lover as he dreams about being attacked by Anubis. This author first encountered one of his recurring characters in an opium-induced haze in an elevator while mourning the death of his lover Raymond Radiguet, and narrated his battle with that apparition in his long poem *The Angel* (\*) *Heurtebise*. In this author's best-known novel, the siblings Paul and Elisabeth seclude themselves in *The Room*, where they engage in a form of intense daydreaming known as *The Game*. For 10 points, name this French author and filmmaker who adapted the myth of Oedipus in his play *The Infernal Machine*, and penned the novel *Les Enfants Terribles*.  
ANSWER: Jean Cocteau [or Jean Maurice Eugène Clément Cocteau]

<AG, Miscellaneous>

5. When confronted with the possibility that “beyond the grave there may be Hell,” a character in this novel replies: “Oh, balls.” A character in this novel reunites with his lover while covered head to toe in practice bandages from an ambulance class. The protagonist of this novel first learns about sex during a school holiday, from diagrams that his teacher Mr. Ducie draws on the beach. In this novel, which was written in 1913 but posthumously published in 1971, a character flirts with its protagonist's sister (\*) Ada after returning from a vacation in Greece with a newfound lust for women. The title character of this novel begins a relationship with the gamekeeper Alec Scudder after suffering a painful breakup from his Cambridge classmate Clive Durham. For 10 points, name this early fictional examination of homosexuality, a novel by E.M. Forster.

ANSWER: Maurice

<AG, Long Fiction>

6. A character in this novel is reminded of a verse from the Smiths song “There Is a Light That Never Goes Out” when he fails to put his arm around a woman. This novel opens in a movie theater, where the narrator is unable to watch Jean-Claude van Damme beat up a guy, because his friend begs to be taken to “Mother Superior.” A character in this novel tries and fails to win his girlfriend back by getting her a kitten, so he lets the kitten (\*) pee and shit all over his apartment, contracting the toxoplasmosis that eventually kills him. The protagonist of this novel makes off with an athletic bag containing the proceeds from the one final drug deal that the Skag Boys rope him into after he goes clean. For 10 points, name this episodic novel, largely written in the Scots dialect and following “Sick Boy,” Mark Renton, and other heroin addicts, written by Irvine Welsh.

ANSWER: Trainspotting

<JC, Long Fiction>

7. In a story by this author, a man and his wife go to a wooden hut to watch adult films, one of which ends up being a porno that he had starred in thirty years earlier. Mrs. Salmon testifies seeing the fat man Mr. Adams kill Mrs. Parker, but then spots his identical twin brother in the courtroom, and later sees one of the twins get run over by a bus, in his story “The Case for the Defence.” The anxiety-ridden nine-year old Francis Morton dies from shock when his twin brother Peter grasps his hand during a game of (\*) hide and seek in the dark, in this author's oft-anthologized story “The End of the Party.” He wrote a story in which the Wormsley Common Gang locks Old Misery in an outhouse while they take sledgehammers to his two-hundred year old residence. For 10 points, “The Destroyers” and the screenplay to *The Third Man* are among the shorter works of what incredibly Catholic English novelist?

ANSWER: Graham Greene [or Henry Graham Greene]

<AG, Short Fiction>

8. A poem by this author observes that “as you read / the sea is turning its dark pages,” and “a white bear leisurely / pees, dyeing the snow / saffron.” This author wrote that “I love

**them / for finding what / I can't find, / and for loving me / for the line I wrote" in a poem in which "Two girls discover / the secret of life / in a sudden line of poetry." This poet declared that, contra Wordsworth, "The world is / not with us enough / O taste and see," a phrase which titles (\*) her collection containing "The Secret." After publishing her groundbreaking 1959 collection, *With Eyes at the Back of Our Heads*, this author drifted apart from the Black Mountain poets, who disliked her political involvement. For 10 points, name this English-born American poet whose output in the 1960s channels her opposition to the Vietnam War.**

ANSWER: Denise Levertov [or Priscilla Denise Levertoff]

<AG, Poetry>

**9. A play by this author begins with its dead cast stepping onto a wooden platform as ashes fall from their drab clothes. A play by this author warns against ordering "ladies' drinks" as part of a "Mother's Guide to Social Drinking" that is aired to the audience when its sixteen-year old protagonist is offered her first martini. Three segments titled "On Men, Sex, and Women" appear in that play by her, whose grown-up protagonist seduces a high school boy. Her most recent play dramatizes the controversy sparked by a lesbian kiss at the premiere of (\*) Sholem Asch's 1907 play *God of Vengeance*. In her best-known play, a sexual relationship between Li'l Bit and her uncle Peck develops during her rides in his Buick. For 10 points, name this author who won the 1998 Pulitzer for her play *How I Learned to Drive*, and whose play *Indecent* is currently on Broadway.**

ANSWER: Paula Vogel

<AG, Drama>

**10. The speaker of this collection charges "stockings and shoes" with "dividing my feet from the dust of the world, / compelling my solitude, compounding my exile," in its poem "Ritual of My Legs." The speaker prophesies that, "out of your turpitude, bullets are born / that one day will strike for the mark / of your hearts," in a poem from this collection ending with a thrice-repeated call to "come see the blood / in the streets!" The speaker examines "courtyards with laundry hung out on a wire" while "slowly dribbling a slovenly tear," at the end of a poem in this collection that begins: "It (\*) so happens I'm tired of just being a man." The poems "Walking Around" and "I Explain a Few Things" appears in the second and third volumes of this collection, reflecting its author's output from 1931-35 while stationed as a diplomat in Madrid, and then from 1935-45, influenced by the horror of the Spanish Civil War. For 10 points, name this three-volume collection spanning two decades of poetry by Pablo Neruda.**

ANSWER: *Residence on Earth* [or *Residencia en la Tierra*]

<AG, Poetry>

**11. This essay notes that at the age of thirty, "the great mass of human beings... almost abandon the sense of being individuals at all." This essay quotes its author's poem lamenting that "I wasn't born for an age like this; / Was Smith? Was Jones? Were you?" This essay observes that performing the title action involves a constant struggle to "efface one's own personality," just before declaring that "Good prose is like a windowpane." The author of this essay notes that he does not sit down and declare 'I am going to produce a (\*) work of art' when is about to perform the title action, but rather because "there is some lie I want to expose," and lists "sheer egoism," "aesthetic enthusiasm," "historical impulse" and "political purpose" as his four great motives for performing it. Its author defends his inclusion of a long chapter defending Trotskyists falsely accused of collaborating with Franco in his book *Homage to Catalonia*. For 10 points, name this essay in which George Orwell lays out the reasons he performs his craft.**

ANSWER: "Why I Write"

<AG, Nonfiction>

12. **This poem observes that we, “in mad trance, strike with our spirit’s knife / Invulnerable nothings.” This poem scandalized religious audiences with a stanza in which “The Stranger,” a stand-in for the poet, “Made bare his branded and ensanguined brow, / Which was like Cain’s or Christ’s.” The speaker of this poem asks that the “curse of Cain / Light on his head who pierced thy innocent breast,” a reference to the anonymous critic who had skewered its subject in the *Quarterly Review*. This poem offers a “Fond wretch” a chance either to “come forth... and know thyself and him aright,” or to “go ... to (\*) Rome - at once the Paradise, / The grave, the city, and the wilderness.” The speaker of this poem commands: “Most musical of mourners, weep again!” and asks the muse Urania to “Lament anew.” Its fifty-fifth and final stanza observes that the soul of its subject, “like a star, / Beacons from the abode where the eternal are.”** For 10 points, name this pastoral elegy for John Keats, written by Percy Bysshe Shelley.

ANSWER: “**Adonais**” [or, if you insist on being That Guy, “**Adonais**: An Elegy on the Death of John Keats, Author of *Endymion*, *Hyperion*, etc.”]

<AG, Poetry>

13. **In reference to this character’s downfall, the chorus laments that “Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight, / And burned is Apollo’s laurel bough.” This character beseeches his soul to be “chang’d into little water-drops, / And fall into the ocean, ne’er be found!” at the end of a soliloquy twice interrupted by clock chimes, in which he reflects upon having “but one bare hour to live.” This character’s leg is pulled straight off by a man whom he sold a horse that turns into straw when ridden through water. The inscription (\*) *Homo, fuge* appears on this character’s arm when his blood congeals and has to be warmed by fire. This character snatches Pope Adrian’s food while invisible, amuses Charles V by placing horns on the head of Alexander the Great, and asks: “was this the face that launched a thousand ships” after conjuring Helen of Troy. For 10 points, name this character whose “Tragical History” unfolds after he sells his soul to Mephistopheles, in a play by Christopher Marlowe.**

ANSWER: Doctor **Faustus** [do not accept or prompt on “Faust”]

<AG, Drama>

14. **An employee of this empire keeps a notepad in which he titles every page “Why I Am What I Am,” in a novel in which he is appointed “Imperial Astrologer” after importing cats to end a plague. The title character leaves his monastery to avenge the execution without trial of his brother by authorities from this empire in a novel by Mesa Selimovic. On a seat called a *kapia* built by this empire, a consummate gambler is cured of his vice by being challenged to wager his life. After unsuccessfully besieging the title structure with his war machine, the scientist (\*) Hoja escapes the eye of this empire, in the novel *The White Castle*. While employed in this empire, Butterfly, Stork, and Olive are suspected of murdering the acclaimed miniaturist Elegant Effendi. For 10 points, name this setting of Orhan Pamuk’s novel *My Name is Red*, an empire which built the title structure of Ivo Andric’s *The Bridge on the Drina* using forced Christian labor.**

ANSWER: **Ottoman** Empire [prompt on Turkish empire]

<AG, Long Fiction>

15. **This character relates how “an archer who draws a deadly bow” can strike a man’s heart while his soul’s sentry is asleep, in an address that he delivers while examining a relic illustrating “how war first came into this world.” He points a man toward a “frost-stiffened wood” overlooking a lake where at night, the water burns. This character warns a man against being prideful, as one day, he will be killed by “sudden fire or a surge of water / or**

**jabbing blade or javelin from the air / or repellent age,” in a passage often referred to as his (\*) “sermon.”** Another character advises him to “Let whoever can / win glory before death,” when this man excessively mourns the death of his advisor Aeschere. Prior to the narrative, this character had sent treasure to the Wulfings to prevent them from retaliating against Ecgtheow. This descendent of Scyld Scaefing is gifted the decapitated head of a monster descended from Cain. For 10 points, name this king of the Danes, whose mead hall of Heorot is often attacked by Grendel in *Beowulf*.

ANSWER: **Hrothgar**

<AG, Miscellaneous>

**16. One of these documents tells of how its author briefly strove to be a poet so that he “might obtain a niche in the temple where the names of Homer and Shakespeare had been consecrated” after becoming acquainted with them in the library of his Uncle Thomas. The last of these documents records the confession: “I, the miserable and the abandoned, am an abortion, to be spurned, and kicked, and trampled on.” The first of these documents mentions a “country of eternal light,” where its author might find the force that moves (\*) compass needles. The last of the four of these documents before the start of the narrative recounts the discovery of an emaciated man amidst a team of dead sled dogs. The final one of these documents describes how on the return voyage from the Arctic, its author saw an eight foot tall being weeping over the corpse of his creator, Victor. For 10 points, name these documents written to Margaret Saville by her brother Robert Walton, which frame the plot of *Frankenstein*.**

ANSWER: Robert Walton’s **letters** to his sister in ***Frankenstein*** [or **Walton’s letters**; just **letters** is fine after “Frankenstein” is read]

<AG, Long Fiction>

**17. When a character in this play suggests that a man had black ink and stones pumped up his ass as a joke, a man replies: “Since when are enemas a joke!” The Georgian dancer Vakhtang Chabukiani broke from the genre of Soviet-approved “choreodrama” to choreograph a popular ballet adaptation of this play. A character in this play thwarts a rape in the fields by seizing the attacker’s crossbow and threatening to shoot. After escaping from his citadel, the peasant girl (\*) Laurencia leads a revolt against this play’s villain, culminating in his head being placed on a pike and his banner being replaced with that of Ferdinand and Isabella. In response, a judge orders the torture of over three hundred people, who all unanimously state that “[this play’s title place] did it.” For 10 points, an entire village claims responsibility for killing the tyrannous Commander Gómez in what play, the most popular out of literally thousands by Lope de Vega?**

ANSWER: **Fuente Ovejuna** [or ***The Sheep Well***]

<AG, Drama>

**18. A woman in this novel finds out that Father Marcel has been raping starving girls in exchange for crayfish as boys chase a lizard up a tree. In this novel, a woman shows train passengers her child’s head in a calabash which the author compares to German women fleeing Hamburg. In this novel, Master’s mother yells that a woman is a witch because she had a nursemaid and went to university. Okeoma uses his army uniform to cover up a woman while laying in a cassava patch during an enemy air raid in this novel. This novel is (\*) interspersed with the text of a book called *The World Was Silent When We Died* which is written by Odenigbo’s houseboy Ugwu. This novel ends with Olanna’s twin sister Kainene goes missing after trading “on *afia* attack” across enemy lines. For 10 points, name this Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie novel about the Biafran war.**

ANSWER: **Half of a Yellow Sun**

<EG, Long Fiction>

19. **In this novel, a water-tower emblazoned with a peace sign nearly collapses in a cataclysmic rainstorm in which a couple drowns while sitting in their car. This novel's extremely horny protagonist attempts to seduce a girl whose father had just committed suicide, picks up a hitchhiker and has sex with her in a cyanide dump, and molests a Portuguese girl aboard an international flight. In this novel, the gay teenager Terry avoids facing conscription by hitchhiking into (\*) Namibia during his final vacation from boarding school.** This novel opens with a group of children playing with guinea eggs on a four-hundred acre property on which the foreman Jacobus discovers the corpse of a black man. For 10 points, name this novel set on the farm of the industrialist Mehring, written by Nadine Gordimer.

ANSWER: *The Conservationist*

<EG, Long Fiction>

20. **In this story, a man with a cancerous lump over his ear creepily carries a long peppermint stick and follows a boy into the woods. The protagonist of this story believes after reading a book that all pigs are pink bowtie-wearing animals with curly tails, so he is easily pranked into releasing a hog that attacks and chases him. At the start of this story, its protagonist's father puts an ill-fitting coat on him, and mutters the command "for Christ's sake, fix him" to his (\*) babysitter. In this story, the gas station owner Mr. Paradise heckles a man conducting a healing service enthusiastically attended by Mrs. Connin. Even though the evangelist Bevel Summers baptizes him and "counts" him among the saved, the protagonist of this story is ignored by his family. For 10 points, name this second story from *A Good Man is Hard to Find*, in which the young child Harry Ashfield then returns to the title body of water, and drowns.**

ANSWER: "The River"

<EG, Short Fiction>