

It's Lit

Written by Auroni Gupta, Jason Cheng, and Eliza Grames

Packet 8

1. **A film in this novel contains the Trumpean image of state troopers “grabbing handcuffed girls by the pussy” while evicting members of a commune in Texas. In this novel, a paralyzing “Death Touch” is employed by members of an all-female ninja collective called the Sisterhood of Kunoichi Attentives. The protagonist of this novel leaps through the plate-glass window of a local restaurant so as to qualify for his annual disability check. To bring down the leader of a secessionist nation called the People’s Republic of (\*) Rock and Roll, this novel’s villain, the federal prosecutor Brock Vond, seduces the film collective member Frenesi Gates and makes her a double agent. Frenesi is also being sought by her daughter with this novel’s protagonist, a teenage employee of the Bodhi Dharma Pizza Parlor named Prairie. For 10 points, name this Thomas Pynchon novel in which the ex-hippie Zoyd Wheeler lives in a fictional Northern California town.**

ANSWER: **Vineland**

<AG, Long Fiction>

2. **A character gets the idea to do this job after people throw old food at him. As he does this job, a character from a play set in an exact replica of the “Great Hole of History” repeats the phrases “little ringing in the ears” and a “slight deafness.” A man who holds this job at an arcade worries that they’ll replace him with a wax sculpture so he starts playing a game in which “you pick that red card you pick a loser you pick thuh black card thuh deuce of spades you pick a winner.” Because he has long (\*) legs and a short torso, a Digger has this job in *The America Play*. A character who is so obsessed with three-card monte that he eventually changes his name to “3-card” hates that his brother performs this job by whitening his face, wearing a fake beard and top hat, and allowing people to shoot him. For 10 points, name this job that Booth’s brother does in Suzan-Lori Parks’ *Topdog/Underdog*.**

ANSWER: **impersonating Abraham Lincoln** [descriptions are fine; prompt on impersonating someone]

<EG, Drama>

3. **Upon hearing about the “Spanish romance, *El trovador*,” a woman in this novella asks if that is the book with question marks turned upside down. A woman in this novella is introduced slapping the foreheads of four willing young men with grey flowers, and when she spots the narrator, he turns red and runs home with his gun in hand. A group of characters in this novella, including the hussar Byelovzorov, put their names in a hat to play a game of forfeits for the right to (\*) kiss a woman’s hand. In its final chapter, the protagonist goes to visit his newly-married love interest in St. Petersburg, only to find out she had died of childbirth four days before. In the climactic scene of this novella, its narrator is stunned to see his love interest, the young princess Zinaida, being whipped with a riding crop by his father. For 10 points, name this novella in which Vladimir Petrovich Voldemar recounts his earliest romance, by Ivan Turgenev.**

ANSWER: **First Love** [or **Pervaya ljubov**]

<AG, Short Fiction>

4. **In a novel whose English-language title alludes to this non-twentieth century work, the main character loses his wedding ring inside a woman while fingering her. A novel titled in reference to this work ends with its main characters traveling in vans marked with the word “Meat” written in four different languages. It denotes a severe three-year**

psychological “crisis” marked by a total abandonment of playwriting in favor of painting and occult-dabbling suffered by (\*) August Strindberg, who penned an autobiographical novel with this title. The novel *La habana para un Infante Difunto* was translated into English with a title suggesting that it is Guillermo Cabrera Infante’s rendition of this work. In a novel titled after a place mentioned in this poem, Innokenty Volodin is sent to a camp for *zeks* working in an acoustic laboratory. For 10 points, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn wrote a novel depicting scientists interned at a gulag as inhabitants of the “First Circle” from what epic poem?

ANSWER: *Inferno* [prompt on *Divine Comedy*; prompt on *Divina Commedia*]  
<AG, Long Fiction>

5. A section of this poem declares that “necessity and that presentation / Are rubbings of a glass in which we peer,” and ends by assuring that: “Time will write them down.” It observes that “From this the poem springs: that we live in a place / That is not our own and, much more, not ourselves.” This poem’s final, unnumbered set of seven tercets begins: “Soldier, there is a war between the mind / And sky, between thought and day and night. It is / For that the poet is always in the (\*) sun.” This poem asks “And for what, except for you, do I feel love?” in its dedication to the art collector Henry Church, which is followed by its opening command: “Begin, ephebe, by perceiving the idea / Of this invention.” The titles of this poem’s three divisions specify that its title ideal artform “must be abstract,” “must change,” and “must give pleasure.” For 10 points, name this poetic manifesto by Wallace Stevens.

ANSWER: “Notes Toward a Supreme Fiction”  
<AG, Poetry>

6. In this novel, a character’s boyhood visions of women carrying pitchers to the Nile are punctuated by progressively longer excerpts from the folk song “O western wind, when wilt thou blow?” A character in this novel observes that “Everything falls in a tremendous shower, dissolving me,” as she peers off a high cliff in Spain, off which, it is later implied, she leaps to commit suicide. In adjacent sections, this novel describes a dinner party given in honor of a character departing to take a government post in (\*) India, and that character’s death there from being thrown from a horse. This novel consists of nine italicized passages describing the interplay of sun, sky, and surf at different times of day, separating stream-of-consciousness soliloquies about Percival, delivered by his friends Susan, Louis, Jinny, Bernard, Rhoda, and Neville. For 10 points, name this most experimental novel by Virginia Woolf.

ANSWER: *The Waves*  
<AG, Long Fiction>

7. This author declared that “It is art that *makes* life... and I know of no substitute whatever for the force and beauty of its process,” in a letter responding to a critic who had likened his novels to a dead kitten atop a church altar. In his edition of this author’s letters, Leon Edel included two long-suppressed messages he addressed to his siblings during a delirium in which he thought he was Napoleon. He wrote that he was tormented by “the sense that I can’t help you, see you, talk to you, touch you, hold you close and long” in a (\*) homoerotic letter addressed to the Norwegian-American sculptor Hendrik Christian Andersen. The narrator of a novella by this author rents a room in a Venetian palazzo and woos Tita Bordereau as part of a scheme to acquire the love letters addressed to Tita’s aunt Juliana by an American poet. For 10 points, name this author of *The Aspern Papers*, who exchanged many warm letters with his psychologist brother William.

ANSWER: Henry James  
<AG, Nonfiction>

8. At the end of the poem, “an ancient memory sounds loud a hunting horn,” forcing the speaker to think “of the captives, of the vanquished!... of many others too!” In this poem, the “absent coco-palms of splendid Africa” elude a “negress, wasted and consumptive,” an unflattering portrait of the author’s half-black mistress Jeanne Duval. Victor Hugo raved that a “new shudder” had been generated in literature after reading this poem, which joins “The (\*) Seven Old Men” and “Little Old Women” in a set of three “Parisian Scenes” dedicated to him. The title creature of this poem “stretch[es] his avid head upon his quivering neck, / As if he were reproaching God!,” after dragging itself from its cage toward a dry gutter. This poem laments the Haussmannization of Paris through a series of classical allusions heralded by the opening line, “Andromache, I think of you!” For 10 points, name this Baudelaire poem about a white bird.

ANSWER: “The Swan” [or “Le cygne”]

<AG, Poetry>

9. The precipitating incident of this story is described as a natural consequence of having “four million human beings all jostling each other within the space of a few square miles.” A character in this story runs away after accidentally smashing a window with a stick while defending himself from a few ruffians who attack him at four in the morning. The protagonist of this story deduces that a man has no gas in his house, from observing five tallow stains on his (\*) hat. The protagonist of this story learns Mrs. Oakshott’s address by purposefully losing a bet to Mr. Breckinridge about whether his livestock are town or country bred. In this story, the maid Catherine Cusack conspires with James Ryder to have the plumber John Horner be arrested for the theft of a prized possession of the Countess of Morcar. For 10 points, name this Sherlock Holmes story whose title jewel is found in the crop of a Christmas goose.

ANSWER: “The Blue Carbuncle”

<AG, Short Fiction>

10. A girl of this ethnicity audibly pees herself when a boat arrives and confesses she put a man’s name into water sweetened with brown sugar and cinnamon as a spell. After telling her husband that she wants to talk to him like she’s a deaf person, a woman of this ethnicity takes a lover who is not too ashamed to bury her braid under a tree. A man of this ethnicity buys a self-help book to stop self-doubt written by D.D. Vanderbilt called *Forward America!*, which is in his back pocket when “bad luck” kills him in a car crash involving (\*) Vanna Vane. The lector reads *Anna Karenina* to workers of this ethnicity in *Anna in the Tropics*. Two brothers of this ethnicity were invited by Desi Arnaz to play their song “Beautiful Maria of My Soul” on *I Love Lucy*. For 10 points, name this ethnicity of Nilo Cruz and the author of *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love*, Oscar Hijuelos.

ANSWER: Cuban-American

<EG, Miscellaneous>

11. Upon metaphorically perceiving the solid earth to be one of these objects inside an air pocket, a character vomits behind a clump of laurels near a factory where they are being made. From the vantage point of one of these devices, two characters on a date see a crematorium from which phosphorus is being collected for fertilizer. After hitting his head on one of these things, a black man kidnaps and has sex with a blonde woman inside of one, in a “feely” titled for *Three (\*) Weeks* in one of these devices, which come in “taxi” and “sporti” variants. Near the end of the novel, a crowd of people descend in these devices to watch the spectacle of Lenina Crowe being whipped by John the Savage. Gammas, Deltas, and Epsilons travel in high-speed

monorails instead of in these vehicles. For 10 points, name this primary means of transportation for the privileged castes in the World State from *Brave New World*.

ANSWER: helicopters [or taxicopters; or sporticopters]

<AG, Long Fiction>

12. **The speaker wishes to see “Night and the water, and you in your whiteness, bathing!” in a poem by this author that begins with a torrent “Gushing from the mouths of stone men / To spread at ease under the sky.” The speaker of another poem by this author laments that “When I go away from you / The world beats dead / like a slackened drum.” The speaker of a poem by this author recalls a man following her through a maze, “Bewildered by [h]er laughter,” mourning, “In a month he would have been my (\*) husband.” This author’s poems “In the Garden” and “The Taxi” were inspired by her relationship with the Mormon actress Ada Dwyer Russell. This recipient of a posthumous Pulitzer for *What’s O’Clock*, wrote a poem whose speaker cries: “Christ! What are [the title objects] for?” For 10 points, name this Imagist author of the collection *Men, Women, and Ghosts*, which contains the poem “Patterns.”**

ANSWER: Amy Lowell [or Amy Lawrence Lowell]

<JC, Poetry>

13. **When a girl in this novel reports that she has climbed over a “great big spiky rustball” on the beach, the other characters realize to their horror that she is referring to a mine. After learning to read, a formerly illiterate fisherman in this novel discovers from his wife’s letters that she no longer loves him, so he attempt to rape her. After returning home from a German internment camp, a character in this novel speaks for the first time in eight years to yell at his daughter and ex-mother-in-law to “Get out!” of his house, saving them during an (\*) earthquake while he is crushed to death. In this novel, the gay soldier Carlo Guercio falls in love with the protagonist, shielding his body with his own when they face a firing squad. While billeted in Dr. Iannis’s house on Cephalonia, the protagonist of this novel falls in love with his daughter Pelagia. For 10 points, name this novel about an Italian army officer who is skilled at playing the title stringed instrument, written by Louis de Bernières.**

ANSWER: *Captain* Corelli’s Mandolin

<AG, Long Fiction>

14. **The speaker of a poem from this sequence laments that he “cannot touch your hand and look / Too, into that godless cleft of sky / Where nothing turns but dead sands flashing.” This sequence ends by declaring the “imaged Word... that holds / Hushed willows anchored in its glow,” to be the “unbetrayable reply / Whose accent no farewell can know.” The second poem in this sequence stipulates that “the seal’s wide spindrift gaze toward paradise” should be “answered in the vortex of our grave,” in its entreaty to “O (\*) minstrel galleons of Carib fire” to “bequeath us to no earthly shore.” The speaker watches as “Bright striped urchins flay each other with sand” in the first of these poems, which appear after “At Melville’s Tomb” as the final entry of the volume *White Buildings*. For 10 points, name this sequence of six poems portraying the author’s relationship with the Danish sailor Emil Opffer as a mystical sea-journey, written by Hart Crane.**

ANSWER: “Voyages”

<AG, Poetry>

15. **This quality is hailed as the “sweet precursor of the gen’rous deed” in a satiric “poetical epistle” that Hannah More addressed to the “bluestocking” Frances Boscawen. G.J. Barker-Benfield’s literary study of the “culture” of this quality describes the folk belief that it was the byproduct of overactive nerves. In *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Mary**

**Wollstonecraft savages the “cult of” this quality for enslaving women to love. (\*)** Sentimental novels such as Fanny Burney’s *Evelina* were also known as “novels of” this quality. After being rebuffed by the philanderer John Willoughby and getting engaged to Colonel Brandon, Marianne Dashwood finds a happy medium between embodying this quality and expressing its counterpart, possessed by her sister Elinor. For 10 points, name this predisposition to deep emotional response to art, which Jane Austen paired with “Sense.”

ANSWER: **sensibility**

<AG, Miscellaneous>

**16. The protagonist of a story by this author goes on a hunt in which he is not only unable to wound any animals, but is also physically pushed back to his castle by a stampede of them. One of this author’s characters dies by being bled too severely while being treated for yellow fever, which he contracts on his first long voyage as a sailor to Havana. At a feast organized for the gluttonous Aulus Vitellius, the title character of a story by this author asks her daughter to request the (\*) head of Iakokann. This author wrote “Hérodiade” and “The Legend of Saint Julian the Hospitaller,” which are collected alongside his story in which Mme. Aubain’s servant girl Felicité sees her pet parrot Loulou float above her deathbed. For 10 points, name this French author of “A Simple Heart,” whose protagonist’s goodness is often contrasted with the wickedness of the adulterous doctor’s wife who swallows arsenic in his best-known novel.**

ANSWER: Gustave **Flaubert**

<AG, Short Fiction>

**17. After observing that “a girl’s face bends to gaze at the wax’s fate,” the speaker of a poem by this author declares that “Wax is for women: Bronze is for men.” The speaker observes that “Even as we freeze in Lethe we’ll remember / the ten heavens the earth cost us,” in the 103rd poem from this author’s inaugural collection *Stone*, which exhorts: “Let us praise the freedom of twilight, brothers.” This author declared that “I have studied the Science of departures” in the title poem of his major collection, (\*) *Tristia*. This author, whose entire corpus was memorized and published by his wife Nadezhda, wrote about a “Kremlin highlander” who “rolls the executions on his tongue like berries” in his most famous poem. For 10 points, name this Soviet poet who was arrested and eventually put to death for penning the satirical “Stalin Epigram.”**

ANSWER: Osip **Mandelstam** [or Osip Emilyevich **Mandelshtam**]

<AG, Poetry>

**18. Three characters in this scene reappear, hurling insults such as “hang, you whoreson, insolent noisemaker!” at a character who had ordered them to exit just four lines before. In this scene, a character ironically places his full trust upon a man whose “complexion is perfect gallows.” This scene ends just after a character prays for “an acre of barren ground, long heath, brown furze, any thing.” The sound effects specified by its opening stage direction were generated at its premiere by a cannonball that was rolled around the roof of the (\*) Blackfriars theater. Tension is generated in this scene because the working-class Boatswain orders everyone, including the lords Sebastian, Antonio, and Gonzalo, to go belowdecks. For 10 points, name this chaotic opening scene of a Shakespeare play, depicting a weather event conjured by Prospero.**

ANSWER: the **tempest** from *The Tempest* [or synonyms; accept the **first scene** of *The Tempest* or equivalents, before it is read]

<AG, Drama>

**19. This character jolts awake upon feeling an invisible vulture claw deeply into his scalp, crack his skull, and touch his brain. When this character faints in the midst of uttering a**

**phrase, his guardian angel wakes him up and transforms himself into a black slave bearing a basket full of jewelry and fine clothes to serve as his guide. In another novel, this character suffers nightmares in which several soldiers, including his father, march to a village square to slaughter him and other children. This character is encouraged to have sex with (\*) sheep during his four years studying under the Pastor, who banishes him when he offers a lamb for sacrifice. This man lives an idyllic married life under the name of "Lazarus" in a dream sequence from which he wakes up and immediately dies, in a novel about him adapted into a film by Martin Scorsese. For 10 points, Jose Saramago and Nikos Kazantzakis were accused of blasphemy for penning novels respectively depicting *The Gospel According to* and *The Last Temptation of* what religious figure?**  
ANSWER: **Jesus Christ** [or Jesus **Cristo**]

<AG, Long Fiction>

**20. In this play, a nearly-blind old woman maniacally begs to dance more and more with a bride, until she has to be yanked away. The Moscow Art Theater production of this play fell through when the lead actor Michael Chekhov suffered a nervous breakdown rehearsing its climactic scene, during which a man lights black candles and blasts ram horns. In the last act of this play, a character enters a chalk circle to describe a pact he had made with the merchant Sender, that if their children were of opposite (\*) genders, they would be wed. This play was written first in Russian under the title *Between Two Worlds* before being translated to its more familiar language by the author himself. In this play, the poor *yeshiva* student Khanan takes revenge for not being granted Leah's hand in marriage, by possessing her on her wedding day. For 10 points, name this Yiddish-language play about a demonic spirit, written by S. Ansky.**

ANSWER: *The **Dybbuk*** [or *der **Dibuk***; accept **Between Two Worlds** before mentioned; accept *Mezh dvukh Mirov* before *Between Two Worlds* is mentioned; accept **Tzvishn Zvey Weltn** before *Between Two Worlds* is mentioned]

<AG, Drama>