

It's Lit

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Packet 9

1. In a novel by this author, the protagonist has sex with three women at the same time as his wife is being truncheoned to death next door. The protagonist of a novel by this author lives with his daughter on an island where he artificially inseminates cows. A newspaper column called "Slyter Says" introduces every chapter of a novel by this author, in which the protagonist's lodger William Hencher gets trampled to death while helping to steal Rock Castle. In a novel by this author, the Duke corners a boy, dismembers him with his sword, ties the organs inside the boy's jacket, and (*) cooks the remains for the singer Madam Snow. This author of *Second Skin* and *The Cannibal* is best known for a novel set in a bombed-out post-World War II England, in which the couple Margaret and Michael Banks get roped into a racehorse scheme. For 10 points, name this postmodern American author best known for his novel *The Lime Twig*.

ANSWER: John **Hawkes** [or John Clendennin Talbot Burne **Hawkes**, Jr.]

<AG, Long Fiction>

2. This book presents the image of two "human atoms" holding each other tightly, each thinking: "I have come to this lonely place and here is this other." A character in this book brings a lamb to the woods with the intention of burning it to receive a message from God, but after he pulls out the knife, his grandson panics and knocks him out by throwing a stone at his forehead. A character in this book entrusts a boy with the secret of human life, namely "that everyone in the world is Christ and they are all crucified." In its first section, a (*) writer lies in bed watching all the people he has ever known pass before his eyes, and decides to record their memories in a "Book of the Grotesque." In its first story, Adolph Myers flees Pennsylvania after his students accuse him of molesting them with his overactive hands, and changes his name to Wing Biddlebaum. For 10 points, name this set of linked stories about the small town upbringing of George Willard, by Sherwood Anderson.

ANSWER: ***Winesburg, Ohio***

<AG, Short Fiction>

3. In a novel by this author, the protagonist dedicates a meal of dark bread and meat with licorice sauce served on dark plates by nude black mistresses, in honor of his lost virility. One of this author's protagonists parts with his mistress Madame Chantelouve after she is overcome by the odor emanating from incense burners at a black mass. This first president of the Goncourt Academy countered the evil subject matter of his novel about Durtal's attempts to write a biography of the child murderer (*) Gilles de Rais, by publishing the antidotal "white book" *En route*. After ending his affair with the American acrobat Miss Urania, the protagonist of this author's best-known novel moves into a house with aquariums behind every window, decorated with a tortoise bearing a jewel-encrusted shell. For 10 points, name this author of *Là bas*, who chronicled the depravity of the aristocrat Jean Des Esseintes in his novel *À rebours*.

ANSWER: J. K. **Huysmans** [or Joris-Karl **Huysmans**; or Charles-Marie-Georges **Huysmans**]

<AG, Long Fiction>

4. A character in this play stops choking his uncle with his tie and hurls a carafe offstage upon hearing Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" come on the record player. In this play, the lights go out and a revolver is fired in order to shock the audience of a puppet play about Adam and Eve into a higher level of concentration. This play opens with a card game in which players utter rhymes like "Three of spades. Razor blades," which the main character

breaks up, forcing his grandmother (*) Eugenia to lie down on the coffin in the alcove. The main character of this play coerces his family into throwing a wedding for him and his cousin Ala, but she admits to having cheated on him with the butler Eddie, who then shoots him. For 10 points, name this play in which the end of Arthur's tyrannical control over his family is symbolized by the title dance, written by the Polish dramatist Sławomir Mrożek.

ANSWER: Tango

<AG, Drama>

5. This is the main profession of a character who professes to read novels in a “non-emotional” manner by picking passages at random. A different character radically alters how he practices this profession after stumbling upon the sight of three scowling boys brandishing sticks while on a walk through a slum with his teacher Matsuda. The narrator encourages the innkeeper’s daughter O-Nami Shioda to develop compassion so that he can practice this profession properly, in Natsume Soseki’s *The (*) Three-Cornered World*. The fact that he helped the Imperial Japanese war effort by practicing this profession haunts Masuji Ono in a novel shortlisted for the 1986 Booker. For 10 points, name this profession in which the protagonist of a Kazuo Ishiguro novel attempts to capture the *Floating World*.

ANSWER: artist [or painter]

<AG, Long Fiction>

6. A character in this novel refuses to believe that *Great Expectations* ends with Pip and Estella “being happy ever after,” because “he never believed that about anyone.” A paper company in this novel purposefully creates a logjam, drowning a couple camping nearby. A subplot in this novel follows a woman who works as an electrician at a shipyard and has a lesbian affair with her coworker Lorna. The protagonist of this novel gets a conservative board to approve his successor, by passing him off as a (*) fictive ex-missionary named “Fuzzy Stone.” In this novel, after Wally Worthington’s plane is shot down in Burma, his girlfriend Candy Kendall conceives a child with Homer Wells, a guest at their orchard near the Maine Coast. For 10 points, name this novel in which Wilbur Larch performs abortions as the staff doctor for the St. Cloud’s orphanage, written by John Irving.

ANSWER: The Cider House Rules

<AG, Long Fiction>

7. In a manifesto for this literary movement, an author wrote that he “became lost in the minute and exact copy of life, giving [him]self up entirely to the analysis of the human mechanism.” Dramas in this movement aimed to abide by the precepts of “faire grande, faire vrai, et faire simple.” The chief theoretician of this movement declared that the three primary motives animating any literary work are its “race,” its “milieu,” and its “motive.” The theories of (*) positivist Hippolyte Taine influenced this movement, which was defended in the preface to the 1868 edition of *Therese Raquin*. It began as a radical offshoot of an earlier movement promoted by Stendhal and Flaubert. For 10 points, Emile Zola broke from realism to champion what literary movement, whose authors used scientific conventions to portray reality?

ANSWER: naturalism [accept word forms]

<AG, Miscellaneous>

8. This poet boasts that his blood carries “the stream of seeds to fertilize all the plains of / Byzantium,” in an elegy that more sedately ends with him vowing to “sleep the sleep of death that nourishes the Poet.” After marrying the white woman Colette Hubert, this poet rededicated a section of his major collection to a generic woman with the honorific

“Signare.” This poet advised the title city to open its eyes and ears “to God / who in one burst of saxophone laughter / Created heaven and earth in six days, / And on the seventh slept a deep (*) Negro sleep,” in his poem “To New York” from his collection *Éthiopiennes*. This author of the volume *Nocturnes* listed images such as “firm-fleshed ripe fruit” and “somber raptures / of black wine” to celebrate the physicality of his countrywomen, in his poem “Black Woman.” For 10 points, name this co-founder of the Negritude movement, a poet who served as the first president of Senegal.

ANSWER: Léopold Senghor [or Léopold Sédar Senghor]

<AG, Poetry>

9. A character from a play by this author extracts a confession from a man by twisting one of his arms and demanding that he stick the other in the garbage disposal. In a play by this author, Sharon Graham abruptly exits the stage in the first act so she can vomit, before returning in the second to rehearse reading the letter from Macbeth. Each character in a play by this author tells the audience the exact time and place of their death as they perform a drag rendition of *Swan Lake*. Maria (*) Callas teaches a demanding course for prospective opera singers in this author’s play *Master Class*. Buzz kisses James’s dark chest lesion and Ramon seduces Bobby in the kitchen when he goes to get a midnight snack, in this author’s play about eight gay men who go on vacation in upstate New York. For 10 points, name this playwright whose four Tony Award-winning plays from the 1990s include *Love! Valour! Compassion!*

ANSWER: Terrence McNally

<AG, Drama>

10. This essay states that just as limestone is made up of fossilized animals, so too does language comprise words removed from the power they held when first coined. This essay quotes a stanza from Spenser’s “An Hymn In Honour of Beauty” to beckon the reader “before the secret of the world, there where Being passes into Appearance, and Unity into Variety.” This essay states that “words are also actions, and actions are a kind of words” shortly after proclaiming its title (*) professional a representative of the Beauty that created the Universe. Walt Whitman took a paragraph from this essay declaring that the “ample geography” of America “dazzles the imagination, and it will not wait long for metres,” as a personal challenge to write *Leaves of Grass*. For 10 points, name this Ralph Waldo Emerson essay extolling authors of verse.

ANSWER: “The Poet”

<AG, Nonfiction>

11. The perpetrator of this historical event is symbolized as a dog “jumping the... streets with millions of tin cans / Clanking at his tail,” in Louis MacNeice’s poem “Brother Fire.” During this event, the speaker of a poem is forced to confront “the awareness / Of things ill done and done to others’ harm / Which once you took for exercise of virtue,” when he encounters a ghost in the streets “after the dark dove with the flickering tongue / Had passed below the horizon of his homing.” T.S. Eliot’s personal (*) involvement in this event informs the second section of “Little Gidding.” The devastation wrought by this event prompts the speaker of a poem to conclude: “After the first death, there is no other.” This event is likened to a torrent “dark as the world of man, black as our loss - / Blind as the nineteen hundred and forty nails / Upon the cross” in Edith Sitwell’s “Still Falls the Rain.” For 10 points, name this destructive historical event that prompted Dylan Thomas to write “A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London.”

ANSWER: the Blitz [or the Battle of Britain]

<AG, Poetry>

12. A variation on this phrase precedes a quotation of Edward Dahlberg's declaration that "I won't weep over Poe, or Rilke, or Dickinson, or Gogol, while I turn away the few waifs and Ishmaels of the spirit in this country." Allen Ginsberg wrote that all of his poems progress toward a "renewal of human objectivity" which he took to be "ultimately identical" to this phrase, in a letter to its coiner that was later incorporated into "The Run to the Sea," the fourth book of the poem in which this phrase first appeared. The lines "nothing but the (*) blank faces of the houses / and cylindrical trees / bent, forked by preconception and accident" follow an instance of this phrase. In a section marked "The Delineaments of the Giants," the speaker commands "say it," just before stating this phrase for the first time. For 10 points, name this recurring five-word phrase from *Paterson*, the poetic credo of William Carlos Williams.

ANSWER: "**no ideas but in things**" [accept "**no ideas but in the facts**," which is true for the first line]

<AG, Poetry>

13. Frances Ferguson argues that this event marked a breakthrough for psychological fiction, in her essay titled for it "and the Rise of the Novel." Terry Eagleton penned a study titled for this scene, examining "Writing, Sexuality, and Class Struggle" in the works of the author who wrote it. After this event, its victim jots down fragments from different poems at wild angles all over the page, in the last of the ten "mad papers" that she mutilates and flings to the floor. The perpetrator of this action is called a "savage-hearted monster" in a reply to his short (*) confession reading: "And now, Belford, I can go no farther. The affair is over." At the suggestion of the brothel owner Mrs. Sinclair, this action is perpetrated while its victim is unconscious from being drugged, and so her virtue remains intact. For 10 points, name this crime that Robert Lovelace commits against the heroine of a Samuel Richardson novel.

ANSWER: the **rape of Clarissa** [prompt on rape]

<AG, Long Fiction>

14. After a soccer ball strays too far and is crushed by an oncoming car, the protagonist of this novel brings it to her friend as the first in a series of gifts. Whenever he runs, a boy in this novel covers himself in charcoal, to imitate his idol Jesse Owens. A character in this novel records his feelings for his crush in a book called *The Word Shaker*, printed on the whited-out pages of a copy of *Mein Kampf*. The father of this novel's protagonist spends his free time playing the accordion, and shelters (*) Max Vandenburg, a Jewish fistfighter who escapes the train to Dachau. The narrator of this novel, who reveals himself in its opening pages to be death, informs the reader that the majority of its characters, such as Rudy Steiner, will perish in the Allied bombing of the German town of Molching. For 10 points, name this novel by Australian author Markus Zusak, titled for Liesel Meminger's habit of pilfering tomes.

ANSWER: *The **Book Thief***

<AG, Long Fiction>

15. Because he advises a woman fretting about her misaligned curtains to "paint them black on the inside, and shut up," the protagonist of this story gets his family disinvented from a party at her house. A woman in this story concludes that her husband no longer loves her because of the piles of dirty laundry he leaves everywhere. In its last section, the neighborhood dog Jupiter fetches a slipper as the protagonist works on a coffee table, following the advice of the psychiatrist Dr. Herzog. The protagonist of this story seduces his replacement (*) housekeeper Anne Murchison, and insults the college student Clayton Thomas upon learning that he is engaged to her. This story opens with its protagonist surviving the emergency

landing of his plane from Minneapolis, but nobody particularly caring. For 10 points, name this story about Francis Weed's dissatisfaction with life in the suburb of Shady Hill, by John Cheever.

ANSWER: "The Country Husband"

<AG, Short Fiction>

16. **This character illustrates that he is the "same sort of imbecile and blockhead" as his father, by commenting that his handwriting is "vile... like a pig's."** This character almost tips over a candelabra giddily making his exit after delivering a monologue in which he maniacally imagines his father and grandfather rising from their graves to look at him now. This character recounts, how when he was five, the female lead of the play took care of him after his peasant father (*) punched him in the face, adding that despite the white suit and gaudy yellow shoes he now wears, he is still the same peasant. With Leonid Gayev, he goes to an auction so that he can carry out his plan to set up a bunch of cottages to pay off Lyuba Ranevskaya's debt. For 10 points, name this merchant who buys and orders the demolition of the title *Cherry Orchard* in a Chekhov play.

ANSWER: Yermolay Alexeyevich Lopakhin [accept any of the underlined names, Lopakhin being the primary one]

<AG, Drama>

17. **In a story set in this city, a heroin-addled musician hallucinates wandering through vast fields of invisible funerary urns. Another story set in this city ends with a view of a sunny sky with chirping birds gradually emerging outside the narrator's window as he dries his tears. The narrator discloses his habit of vomiting up rabbits in a story structured as a letter to a woman named Andrea, who has moved to this city. The slow demise of saxophonist Johnny Carter is the subject of "The (*) Pursuers,"** a fictionalization of this city's 1950s bebop scene. In a story from the volume *End of the Game*, a man spends so long looking at an axolotl at this city's botanical gardens, that he becomes one. The disappearance of La Maga sparks the dissolution of this city's Serpent Club, in a novel that can be read according to two different sequences of chapters. For 10 points, Julio Cortazar spent the majority of his career living in what European city, the initial setting of his novel *Hopscotch*?

ANSWER: Paris

<AG, Short Fiction>

18. **In a poem written in this language, a girl climbs a mulberry tree to rescue a bird, but slips off a branch and conveniently lands in her beloved's arms. A poem primarily written in a different language switches to this one to introduce a character who beseeches "You, by that power, / which guides you to the summit of the stairs, / to remember, when the time is fit, my pain."** The poet Paul Blackburn published an anthology of poems from this language, which broadly came in "rich," "light," and "closed" forms. An organization known as (*) Félibrige was founded to promote literature in this language, whose "old" speakers include a poet Dante regarded as the "better smith," the inventor of the sestina Arnaut Daniel. A long poem in this language titled *Mirèio* was the masterwork of its chief modern proponent, Frédéric Mistral. For 10 points, name this language of the lyric poems sung by troubadours in 12th century southern France.

ANSWER: Occitan [or Provençal]

<AG, Poetry>

19. **This author's use of veiled allusions was termed an "omitted center" in a 1960 study by Jay Leyda. The author of a 1976 essay travels "at the speed of time" towards the house of this writer, whom she describes as "Vesuvius at Home." Until Thomas Johnson's 1955**

edition of this writer's collected poems, editors frequently ignored the order specified in the "fascicle" manuscripts. This author was described as the American Marquis de Sade in (*) *Sexual Personae*, which purports to be about "art and decadence from Nefertiti" to this author. This author's collected poems were first posthumously published by Mabel Loomis Todd. This author's correspondence with Thomas Wentworth Higginson led some to conjecture that she addressed her "Master Letters" to him. For 10 points, name this subject of John Cody's psychoanalytic *After Great Pain* and Jerome Charyn's recent *A Loaded Gun*, a reclusive American poet.

ANSWER: Emily Dickinson

<AG, Miscellaneous>

20. A poem by this author observes that "the noise of the purple roiling sea / surrounds and holds me fast." This author wrote that "poetry is a speaking picture, painting a silent poetry," a phrase that inspired Horace's maxim *Ut pictura poesis*. After the nobleman Scopas stiffed him for writing a victory ode filled with too many references to Castor and Pollux, this poet was supposedly saved by the mythological pair when Scopas's dining hall burned down; he later identified the bodies from the wreckage by (*) reconstructing their seating arrangement around the dining table using the first-ever example of a "memory palace." This inventor of the letters omega, xi, psi, and nu wrote: "Tell them in Lacedaimon, passer-by / That here, obedient to their word, we lie," in his epitaph engraved at the battleground of Thermopylae. For 10 points, name this bitter rival of Pindar, an ancient Greek lyric poet from the island of Ceos.

ANSWER: Simonides of Ceos

<AG, Poetry>