

RILKE (Recondite Individuals' Literary Knowledge Extravaganza)

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Playoffs Round 1

1. NOTE: Specific noun required.

In *Richard II*, this noun “cries, / Even from the tongueless caverns of the Earth...for justice and rough chastisement” to Bolingbroke, who hails John of Gaunt as its “earthly author” before dueling Mowbray. Exeter beseeches Henry V to rouse himself “as did the former lions” of this noun, which Othello cries out three times after Iago tells him to “be content” with Cassio wiping his beard with Desdemona’s handkerchief. In *Much Ado About Nothing*, Claudio says that “beauty is a witch / Against whose charms faith melteth into” this noun, which Richard III claims to be (*) “so far in” that “sin will pluck on sin.” Hamlet raves that at Gertrude’s age “the hey-day... is tame” in this noun, which was “cold” during the green judgment of Cleopatra’s “salad days.” One character says of another “Who would have thought the old man to have had so much” of this “in him”. For 10 points, name this noun that “all Great Neptune’s ocean” will not wash clean from Macbeth’s hand.

ANSWER: my/your/etc. blood

2. In a story set during this conflict, a chaplain with a huge closet of care packages gives a homily about suffering in isolation that quotes Wilfred Owen. Another work set during this conflict ends with the central characters being gunned down while gazing into a blood-red horizon on a rubble pile after startling white stallions into charging a bear. A Foreign Service officer assigned to fix high-pressure pipes during this conflict attempts to support Cindy’s women’s health clinic but is forced to hand out baseball equipment. Bombs free four lions from a zoo in a (*) graphic novel set during this conflict, whose “Operation Scooby” haunts a Marine Corps vet while he shoots his dog Vicar. The stories “Prayer in the Furnace” and “Money as a Weapons System” appear in a collection about this conflict that won the 2014 National Book Award. For 10 points, name this conflict that inspired Phil Klay’s *Redeployment* and Brian K. Vaughan’s *Pride of Baghdad*.

ANSWER: Iraq War [accept clear-knowledge equivalents such as US invasion of Iraq or Operation Iraqi Freedom]

3. This author created a character who remains silent when asked by his father to choose between aesthetic blindness and moral blindness. That character created by this author is haunted by dreams of his “mythic ancestor” who killed and burned serfs in his drunken rages. This author created a character who impresses another man’s father by knowing that the number for “prozdor” or “vestibule” is 503 and not 513. The title character of one of his novels returns to Europe after the (*) Ladover community rejects his *Brooklyn Crucifixion*. The protagonist befriends the boy whose line drive in a softball game injured his eye, and whose father speaks to him only when discussing religion in this author’s most famous novel, which describes the relationship between Reuven Malter and the Hasidic Danny Saunders. For 10 points, name this American-Jewish author of *My Name is Asher Lev* and *The Chosen*.

ANSWER: Chaim Potok

4. This is the last title word of a novel in which a girl pisses in a wardrobe and then sees a figure she calls “The Cardinal”, who is actually the narrator wearing a Jacobine liberty cap and covered in blood from a girl he just raped. In a novel with this last title word, the protagonist believes that the Virgin Mary was the vision of a woman she saw after nearly dying from hypothermia when falling through ice to retrieve the hat that Cordelia threw into a frozen creek. This is the last title word of a novel in which the (*) matador Granero is impaled in the face by a bull at the same time that Simone shoves a bull’s testicle up her vagina. Georges Bataille wrote *The Story of this body part*, which appears in the title of a novel named for the marble Elaine Risley carries in her purse. For 10 points, what word follows “Cat’s” in the title of a novel by Margaret Atwood?

ANSWER: eye [or oeil]

5. A poem written in response to this event asks “What are they dragging up and out on their long leashes of sound / That dissolve in the mid-air silence?”. A poem about this event asks: “Thief—how did you crawl into” the thing that the speaker “wanted so badly and for so long”. Recollections of the lead-up to this event form the prologue of Al Alvarez’s *The Savage God*. Before this event, its author described a woman who performed an equivalent action as “perfected” and wearing “the smile of accomplishment”. After a predecessor to this action, people had to “pick the (*) worms off[...] like sticky pearls”. Before this action, its executant taped a note to a baby carriage that said to call Dr. Horder. A poem prefiguring this laments: “This is Number Three / What a trash / To annihilate each decade”, and concludes “I eat men like air”. For 10 points, name this action that preceded the posthumous publication of the collection *Ariel*.

ANSWER: Sylvia Plath’s suicide [accept obvious equivalents for suicide, even just “death”]

6. This character is repeatedly haunted by a moment in which he got lost in the woods, and the trees appeared to be standing in a circle, looking at him. This character burns all of his poems after deciding that reading Kant will begin a new era in his thinking, only to discover that he can’t understand a single thing Kant says, when he actually tries to read him. After gazing up into a blue sky causes him to ponder the nature of infinity, this character becomes obsessed with the question of how real problems can be solved with (*) imaginary numbers. The thought that his mother might possess sexuality horrifies this character as he listens to the prostitute Bozena. After one of his classmates is caught stealing, this character’s friends Reiting and Beineberg beat, torture, and bugger that thief, a student named Basini. For 10 points, name this student at an Austrian boarding school whose “Confusions” title the first novel of Robert Musil.

ANSWER: Young Törless

7. This writer analyzed works like Petronius’ *Satyricon* as fusing a sense of “adventure-time” with “everyday-time”. This writer posited that the value-contexts of author-as-artist and author-as-hero are subsumed by a larger process of “aesthetic activity”. He coined a term for when literature makes time seem visible as a spatial entity within the physical world. He explored a form of literature in which characters cease to function as mouthpieces for authorial discourse but instead come to possess a discourse of their own. This postulator of literary (*) “chronotope” and “polyphony” argued that any literary language is not a unified entity but is rather stratified into dialects. He argued that “grotesque realism” can create a certain degradation of the high into the low in his book *Rabelais and His World*. For 10 points, the concepts of “heteroglossia” and the “carnavalesque” were created by what Russian literary theorist?

ANSWER: Mikhail (Mikhailovich) Bakhtin

8. In order to explain how to use this object, one character repeats the phrase “He kind of spat”. In one scene, that character grabs this object while yelling “I didn’t vote for no ghosts!”. In a later scene, another character cradles this object and rocks to and fro, while repeatedly asking “Didn’t you see what [...] they did?” to a character who repeatedly responds “It was an accident” in response to the recent murder, which he claims to have been unable to see. While holding this object, one character asks: “Which is better—to have rules and agree, or to (*) hunt and kill?” right before he is killed. This object is mistakenly believed to be the target of a night-time raid, which is actually carried out to steal another character’s glasses. During assemblies, the only person who can speak is the holder of this object, which is shattered when Roger throws the boulder that kills Piggy. For 10 points, name this symbol of order from *Lord of the Flies*.

ANSWER: the conch shell

9. A woman who seeks unexplained “rights” in one of these title places rather than share a haunted attic with a parrot is courted by a dullard who believes Branwell Brontë wrote his sisters’ novels. An aged servant who refuses to dirty a “cute liddle mop” cares for Feckless and Aimless at one of these places, where sukebind blooms at The Counting. In another of these places, a nearsighted worker who learns the alphabet sings a banned song ending, “Hearken well, and spread my tidings / Of the golden future time” after her partner resolves to get up earlier in response to a (*) Commandment-breaking execution. At one of these places, *Higher Common Sense* acolyte Flora Poste reforms her nutty Starkadder relatives, while at another tales of Sugarcandy Mountain are spun by Moses the raven. For 10 points, name these places that include the satirical Stella Gibbons setting “Cold Comfort,” as well as the site of an allegorical insurrection led by the pigs Napoleon and Snowball.

ANSWER: farms [accept equivalents]

10. One character with this first name blocks an attempt to “make a scene” over “filthy” breakfast food by threatening to leave a fellow subject of three *on the verge* profiles, whom she often implores to “go into the shade.” Memories of an object like a “penny” or “lemon” from her time in Ohio inspire a character with this name to write a poem about an ephemeral flower, leading her peers to exclude her from playing tag in a grey jungle. A frail girl who is locked in a closet during the only break in seven years of rain on (*) Venus shares this name with a “Memsahib” who repeatedly sobs, “Stop it” in response to the reassurances of a perpetually red-faced man she earlier kisses in camp. The protagonist of Ray Bradbury’s “All Summer in a Day” shares this name with a woman who resents her husband’s “lion business,” presaging her accidental shot during a motor-car buffalo hunt with Robert Wilson. For 10 points, name the wife and killer of Francis Macomber.

ANSWER: Margot [accept Margaret]

11. This experience is symbolized by a cheap snowdome of a muscleman while a crayfish trapper rapes his wife, who thinks this experience is the secret of a couple whose male half describes it as a hot knife entering butter. Raelene imitates Sherry and Dan through this experience, which the polyglot “Crow” Christophe hopes Snow Falls will have when he lowers silver to her lips in *The Orenda*. A sea-hating boy writes out “Sq” and “XVIII” to undergo this experience after anemones in a bucket attack the author of *Corals of Devon*. Les Murray uses identical dedications due to the “Big (*) Poem” he got from this experience, which is represented by throwing lots on the “sign” “alpha” of a hopscotch board and eating raisins in Mrs Stratton’s pudding for the son of Theophilus Hopkins. This experience is the title *Turning* of a Tim Winton collection whose epigraph quotes Eliot’s “Ash Wednesday.” For 10 points, name this experience exemplified by the first title character of *Oscar and Lucinda* becoming Anglican.

ANSWER: Christian conversion [accept word forms and clear-knowledge equivalents about converting to specific denominations; accept rebirth or regeneration; accept Christian testimony or testifying; accept being born again or Christian witnessing; accept turning before mentioned; prompt very generously on “proselytization”, “evangelism” and word forms, things about “missionaries”, “preaching”, “baptism”, “prayer”, “faith”, “divine revelation”, “receiving a message from God”, or other related answers]

12. This work alludes to “Rich arks with priceless bones of martyrdom” found near a man who “Was wounded by blind tongues he saw not whence” until “his soul / Became a fiend” in a section that includes the refrain “The fire of heaven is not the flame of hell.” In a section of this work that contrasts Love and Fame, lightning strikes an oak tree in a “wild wood” after a wily “stranger woman” swears an oath in her attempt to learn her Master’s charm. In this work, a woman seeking her sister is repeatedly instructed, “Lead, and I follow” by a “blooming boy” whom she marries after they go on a journey despite his mother ordering him to become a (*) “kitchen-knave.” In this work, the secret love of “the first in Tournament” hurls nine diamonds into a river bearing the funeral barge of the “lily maid” Elaine of Astolat. For 10 points, name this cycle of twelve poems including “The Marriage of Geraint” and “Gareth and Lynette,” an Arthurian epic by Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

ANSWER: Idylls of the King [accept specific sections]

13. After a leader takes power in this city, “blood is abundant and wine is rarer” according to an anonymous poem found in the same place as one addressed to those who did “what the Barbarians didn’t do.” A king issues an edict saying, “I am Me, and you’re nothing but shit” in a satirical sonnet in the dialect of this city, where many authors have posted protest poems on “talking statutes.” Without love, this city would cease to be itself as “this / World would not be the (*) world” according to a poem addressing its stones, palaces and streets by the author of a travelogue describing its “society of Arcadians” and the “signal for complete licence” given during its firework-free Carnival. Stendhal’s idea of “crystallization” describes falling in love as a visit to this birthplace of *pasquinade*, where Wilhelm Tischbein and Angelica Kauffmann befriended an author who wrote *Egmont* here on his *Journey*. For 10 points, name this hometown of G. G. Belli, which titles a series of Goethe *Elegies*.

ANSWER: Rome [or Roma; accept the Eternal City or Caput Mundi or other nicknames]

14. When one character in this play admits that he's a Milwaukee fan, another character says: "Milwaukee! That's like being hit on the head with a crowbar once a day". One character in this play notices glasses marks on another character's nose and points out that an unseen female character also had glasses marks on her nose. One character in this play times how long it takes another character to simulate walking across a bedroom and a hallway while feigning a limp. After one character in this play sticks a (*) switchblade into a table to point out how unusual its handle is, another character sticks an identical switchblade into the table. In this play, an impatient baseball fan, a racist, and a man whose son rebelled against him are all convinced to change their votes. For 10 points, Juror #8 convinces the other eleven jurors to acquit a boy on trial for murder in what play by Reginald Rose?

ANSWER: Twelve Angry Men

15. After this character is surprised by the extent of deforestation while listening to the story of a hunter orphaning a baby manatee, he obsessively plays his waltz "The Crowned Goddess." This character offers to write love letters free of charge for illiterate people at the Arcade of Scribes and later compiles his own collection of love letters called the "Lover's Companion." This character loses his virginity when an unknown woman suddenly pulls him into a cabin while he is walking on the street. This character loses a poetry competition to a (*) Chinese man and subsequently begins an affair with Sara Noriega. This lover of the fourteen-year-old America Vicuña waits 51 years for his primary love interest, who married a man who dies after falling when trying to catch a parrot. That man is Juvenal Urbino. For 10 points, name this lover of Fermina Daza, the protagonist of Gabriel Garcia-Marquez's *Love in the Time of Cholera*.

ANSWER: Florentino Ariza [accept either underlined part]

16. In one scene, this character delivers a two-page monologue about how she enjoys pretending that she is devouring architectural monuments whenever she eats lavish ice-cream desserts. Multiple long passages are devoted to descriptions of this character's innocent appearance when she sleeps, since they are the few times when she isn't lying. One of this character's relationships ends when another character realized that she was about to use the expression "*me faire (*) casser le pot*", revealing her desire for anal sex. This character lies about knowing Bloch's cousin Esther and the actress Léa. The narrator suspects this niece of Madame Bontemps of having had a lesbian affair with Vinteuil's daughter. This character dies in a horse-riding accident in *The Fugitive*, one of two volumes named for her. For 10 points, the fifth and sixth volumes of Proust's *In Search of Lost Time* are occupied with what lover of Marcel?

ANSWER: Albertine Simonet

17. In a novel titled for these people, a woman who played Enobarbus in an all-female production of *Antony and Cleopatra* changes her locks after learning of her Latin-teaching husband's affair with a statistician. The protagonist of another novel titled for them learns Arabic to escape the drudgery of the Parmenter Committee. A quantum physicist's mad husband markets the hashish-inspired novel *Lemonade* to these people, who title a novel in which a judge sings, "Down by the Salley Gardens" to accompany the violin played by a (*) Jehovah's witness for whom she orders a transfusion. Quotes from a PM-commissioned handbook on these people open each chapter of a novel in which Stephen Lewis grieves for his abducted daughter Kate. For 10 points, name these people whose welfare is safeguarded by the title *Act* of a novel by Ian McEwan, author of a novel named for one of these *in Time*.

ANSWER: children [accept, obviously, *The Children Act* or *The Child in Time*; be nice and accept things like kids]

18. One character in this play notes that flamingoes can only wade, so they are not the swimming birds represented by petals cast into a stream. A "poet" dismissively refers to an "episode" prior to this play with a "pure" woman who left him with a locked treasure-casket in his chest but now appears "transfigured by light." At this play's climax, a wild man tailed by bone-devouring hounds uses the steep path to his dilapidated "castle" as a venue to seduce one of the two women whom the protagonist had promised to show "all the glory of the world" on a (*) mountaintop. In this play, a sister in black shadows a white-clad, "half-risen" model who conceived the "child" "Day of Resurrection" with the future husband of Maja, who is liberated at a spa near a sanatorium by the "Bear-Slayer" Ulfheim. For 10 points, name this play that culminates in an avalanche engulfing Irena and the sculptor Rubek, a work by Henrik Ibsen.

ANSWER: When We Dead Awaken [or *Når vi døde vågner*; accept other translations such as When We Dead Waken]

19. **The Man starts doing this while an offstage news anchor interviews The Woman on a land mine in a play titled for this action by Ahmed Fagih. This action signals the return of an al-Azhar scholar whose mother has waited 17 years for him to fulfill a blood feud. In *The Little Clay Cart*, Maitreya claims it's as funny as a woman reading when a man performs this action, which presages Simeida killing Asakir's son Ilwan in a play by Tawfiq al-Hakim. An allegorical figure performs this action for the God of Seeds as Occident and America enter during a *tocotín* in Sor Juana's *loa* for (*) *Divine Narcissus*. A Prologue's director forget he is supposed to present *The Recognition of Shakuntala* due to this action, exemplified by the "Ale le le" prompted by "cutting down the sap-laden shoot." Women enter Pilkings's cell doing this while bearing Olunde's corpse, and do not stop when his father strangles himself. For 10 points, name this vocation of the Olohun-iyo, who praises the Elesin Oba in *Death and the King's Horseman*.**

ANSWER: (praise)-singing [accept any similar answers about producing songs; accept chanting or other clear-knowledge equivalents]

20. **After this character is shown a folio copy of one of the original Rosicrucian texts, he talks about buying a novelty book called *An Eastern Fakir's Eternal Wisdom* for a quarter, which inspired his belief that his genius is the result of reincarnation. After declining to visit Egypt with another man, he and that man form a two-person secret society called The Pyramid. In that novel, the destruction by racist firemen of an object named for this man leads another man to hold the (*) Morgan library hostage. In one novel, this man is honored by the worship of the letter T by citizens of the World State, and Mustapha Mond is referred to by an honorary title that includes this man's name. In E.L. Doctorow's *Ragtime*, Coalhouse Walker seeks revenge for the destruction of an object produced by the company of this man, who names the calendar in *Brave New World*. For 10 points, name this namesake of an American car company.**

ANSWER: Henry Ford