

It's Lit

Written by Auroni Gupta, Jason Cheng, and Eliza Grames

Packet 1

1. Description acceptable. **This man wrote that he was “long time a child, and still a child, when years / Had painted manhood on my cheek,” a possible reference to his expulsion from Oxford after the dean caught his drunk ass lying in a gutter. A different author observed that this man’s “gentle breathings... Fill up the intersperséd vacancies / And momentary pauses of the thought.” An anecdote about the time this man woke crying from a nightmare, but calmed down upon looking at the moon, is preserved in the poem “The (*) Nightingale.”** The speaker of another “conversation poem” predicts that “all seasons shall be sweet to” this man, even if a “secret ministry” transforms “eave-drops” into “silent icicles / Quietly shining to the quiet moon.” In that poem, the only noise in a room where this man slumbers comes from a film fluttering on a grate. For 10 points, name this “dear babe” addressed in Coleridge’s poem “Frost at Midnight.”

ANSWER: Hartley Coleridge [or Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s infant; prompt on Coleridge; accept Coleridge’s baby, son, boy, kid, etc. but obviously don’t accept “Coleridge’s daughter” or related answers; accept “the poet’s” or “his” in place of “Coleridge’s” throughout this answerline]
<AG, Poetry>

2. **A character in this play posits that “the human animal is a beast” that buys and buys in the “crazy hope that one of his purchases will be life everlasting!” A woman this play affirms that “life has got to be allowed to continue even after the dream of life is--all--over” and soon afterward exclaims “I am alive! I am alive!” while her husband wildly swipes at her. A character in this play declares that he hasn’t “been able to stand the sight, smell, or sound of that woman for (*) forty years now,” in a monologue that begins with him snatching his son’s liquor glass and sardonically asking him: “What do you know about this mendacity thing?” A plantation owner in this play is told he has a spastic colon to disguise his true diagnosis with terminal cancer, allowing Mae and Gooper to scheme for his estate. For 10 points, name this Tennessee Williams play set at the birthday party of Big Daddy Pollitt.**

ANSWER: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

<AG, Drama>

3. **One of these beings dies in a shipwreck on the voyage taking it back to England from Thomas Edison’s house, in the novel that popularized this term, *Tomorrow’s Eve* by Auguste Villiers de l’Isle-Adam. In another novel, these beings aim to discredit a religion whose elderly prophet eternally walks up a mountain as rocks are tossed at him. A terrorist “Union of Concerned Scientists” known as UnConSciya plans bombings in protest of the Tsar’s control over these beings, in a novel in which they are produced from the rapidly-depleting (*) mineral grozium. Ben Winters wrote a steampunk parody of *Anna Karenina* featuring these beings, a “paranoid” one of which named Marvin serves the ship *Heart of Gold* in *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*. For 10 points, the film *Blade Runner* is an adaptation of Philip K. Dick’s novel asking if what beings *Dream of Electric Sheep*?**

ANSWER: androids [prompt on robots; do not accept or prompt on “replicants”]

<AG, Miscellaneous>

4. **In a 1970 novel, an ex-employee of this industry hitches a ride to an abortion clinic from a “man in white duck pants” who babbles about his Cadillac the whole trip. In a novel arranged for publication by the author’s friend Edmund Wilson, a man experiences a mid-flight change of heart about his decision to murder his rival in this industry, but never gets**

a chance to call off the hitmen, because the plane crashes and he dies. After losing his job in this industry, Dennis Barlow works at the (*) Happier Hunting Ground, a funeral service for pets, in Evelyn Waugh's novel *The Loved One*. In a novel about this industry, the fake cowboy Earle Shoop and the dwarf Abe Kusich sleep with Faye Greener, who enthralles an artist struggling to paint "The Burning of Los Angeles." For 10 points, name this industry satirized by Nathanael West in *The Day of the Locust* and romanticized in F. Scott Fitzgerald's unfinished novel *The Last Tycoon*.

ANSWER: **Hollywood** [or the **film** industry; or **movie** industry; or **acting** industry; the first novel is Joan Didion's *Play It As It Lays*]

<AG, Long Fiction>

5. An essay by this author describes a party where a girl accidentally shatters one of a pair of alabaster birds, to which the host responds by breaking the other bird. In his autobiography, this author recounted working for months on a piece about John and Lorena Bobbitt, only to have it be cruelly rejected by *The New Yorker*. Harlan Ellison is pressured to leave a private club in Beverly Hills for wearing insufficiently formal boots in an article by this writer that interpolates (*) lyrics such as "Life is a beautiful thing / I've got the world on a string." In 2016, this author wrote about how Gerald Foos modified the attic of his hotel so he could document his guests having sex in his article "The Voyeur Motel." He published an *Esquire* profile describing how a prying CBS documentary upset a nearly-fifty year old singer who was feeling under the weather. For 10 points, name this New Journalist author of "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold."

ANSWER: Gay **Talese**

<JC, Nonfiction>

6. This author wrote a poem whose speaker feels "The invisible atoms of the air throb all around and catch fire" when he is in love. The speaker tells his lover that "the dark swallows will return / their nests upon your / balcony to hang," in a poem based on this author's breakup with Elisa Guillen to enter an unhappy arranged marriage with Casta Esteban Navarro. In the twenty-first poem from a series by this author, a lover fixes her "blue pupil" on the speaker's to ask him, "What is (*) poetry?" and is told: "Poetry... is you." This poet, who adopted his father's Flemish family name, died of tuberculosis at age 34, after which his friends arranged for the publication of his *Leyendas* and *Rimas*. For 10 points, name this preeminent Spanish Romantic poet.

ANSWER: Gustavo Adolfo **Bécquer** [or Gustavo Adolfo Claudio **Domínguez Bastida**]

<AG, Poetry>

7. This novel's characters find a scrapbook that a man had assembled to caution his daughter about the Seven Deadly Sins, signing the last page in his own blood. This novel opens and closes with a paragraph declaring of its title setting, that "whatever walked there, walked alone." A character in this novel squeezes her friend's hand to cope with the screams of a child, but soon discovers the friend asleep in her own bed. A character in this novel thinks: "Why am I doing this? Why don't they stop me?" the instant before she fatally barrels her (*) car into a tree. Dr. Montague studies the title setting of this novel, in which Theo finds all her clothes splashed with blood and an all caps message demanding "HELP ELEANOR COME HOME" appears in the paneling. For 10 points, name this novel about a supernatural mansion, by Shirley Jackson.

ANSWER: *The **Haunting of Hill House***

<AG, Long Fiction>

8. Michael McClure produced an Obie Award-winning adaptation of a story about these animals, whose narrator declares that nobody would ever try to entertain them by cracking

nuts. These animals are so industrious, that they refuse to believe that a member of their race who has to be carried around because she's limping is actually hurt. These animals resist all temptation to laugh at a member of their species whom many think is merely (*) piping. In the very short story "A Little Fable," one of these animals laments that "the whole world is growing smaller every day" as it bumps into progressively narrower walls, and is told: "You only need to change your direction," before being killed. For 10 points, name this species of the singer Josephine in the final story written by Kafka, who also recounted an anecdote in which one is eaten by a cat.

ANSWER: mice [or mouse-folk; or Mus]

<AG, Short Fiction>

9. A story in this collection ends with a corpse being displayed in a store window for four days before being properly buried. After declaring that charity is inessential because salvation is gained by faith alone, a man watches the exact copy of his earthly house in which he lives in heaven begin to fade and rot, in this collection's story "A Theologian in Death," part of its section of miscellany marked "Et cetera." After watching streams of dragon-shaped fireworks being launched from ships, a character in this collection surrenders (*) herself to imperial Chinese authorities and spends the remainder of her life smuggling opium. This collection's stories "The Widow Ching, Lady Pirate" and "The Disinterested Killer Bill Harrigan" respectively star Ching Shih and Billy the Kid. For 10 points, name this collection of fictionalized biographies of real-life criminals, written by Borges.

ANSWER: A Universal History of Infamy [or A Universal History of Iniquity; or Historia universal de la infamia]

<AG, Short Fiction>

10. A character in this play delivers a monologue imagining himself as an old man being followed and offered sweets by children. In this play's last scene, a man rescues a set of burning papers, adding them to the case file of a criminal who was executed four seconds before his countdown ended. A character in this play relates how the only boy who was not led out of Hamelin had all five of his right toes severed with a meat cleaver by the Pied Piper. The title character of this play leaves puddles from crying because of his job convincing (*) children to commit suicide to preempt their miserable lives. In this play, really fucked-up stories such as "The Little Green Pig" and "The Writer and the Writer's Brother" inspire a series of violent murders of children committed by Michal, prompting Tupolski and Ariel to interrogate Michal's brother, the writer Katurian Katurian Katurian. For 10 points, name this dark drama by Martin McDonagh.

ANSWER: The Pillowman

<EG, Drama>

11. This character declares that "all is like an ocean... touch it one place and it echoes at the other end of the world," to illustrate that his brother was correct to ask forgiveness from even the birds. On the morning of a duel against his romantic rival, this former military officer remembers his brother's pacifist outlook, so he allows his opponent to fire at him with impunity. Rather than remaining incorrupt as expected, this character's corpse emits a (*) putrid stench when it is lowered for burial, prompting his enemy Ferapont to madly exorcise his cell. He dies with his arms out as if embracing the world after telling his life story in Book VI of the novel, which constitutes a spiritual response to the atheistic Parable of the Grand Inquisitor from the previous book. This character wordlessly kneels before Dmitri to quell an argument with his father Fyodor Pavlovich. For 10 points, name this kindly monk who mentors the novice Alyosha in *The Brothers Karamazov*.

ANSWER: Father Zosima the Elder

<AG, Long Fiction>

12. **A character in this collection describes a girl that makes men want to anonymously send her candy once a week, wait for her wedding announcement, and gift her the deed to a house. In one story from this collection, a girl who used to stone cows, beat dogs, and fight children becomes a woman because “a child fell out of her womb onto a bed of pine needles.” This collection includes a story in which Esther decides she loves a prophet who leaves town on a (*) bull named King Barlo. A song sung by a girl in this collection repeats the word “Sinner!” and “come out that fact’ry door.” This collection describes a girl with skin “like dusk on the eastern horizon” who men want to ripen too soon, named Karintha. After slitting Bob Stone’s throat for being in love with Louisa, Tom Burwell is lynched in a story from this collection. For 10 points, name this collection that includes “Blood Burning Moon” by Jean Toomer.**

ANSWER: *Cane*

<EG, Miscellaneous>

13. **In a story from this collection, a college girl and her Taiwanese boyfriend crash into a telephone pole immediately after driving off with the narrator’s money. This collection ends with its narrator rhapsodizing about “All these weirdos, and me getting a little better every day right in the midst of them” after recounting memories a woman saluting with her paralyzed arm during sex, and of a Mennonite man washing his wife’s feet after arguing with her. In the film adaptation of this collection, its author plays the role of Terrence Weber, a man whose wife stabbed him in the (*) eye. Its protagonist finally finds a stable job writing a newsletter at a facility for disabled people in its last story, “Beverly Home.” While cutting the baby bunnies out of a rabbit he had hit with his truck in its story “Emergency,” the protagonist of this collection muses on the aptness of his nickname “Fuckhead.” For 10 points, name this collection of linked stories about a recovering heroin addict, by Denis Johnson.**

ANSWER: *Jesus’ Son*

<JC, Short Fiction>

14. **The damage to this structure is summarized by the narrator quoting a Latin maxim that means: “time is blind, man is stupid.” Though the original title of the novel was simply the name of this structure, the translator Frederic Shoberl rechristened it to reflect the English craze for Gothic fiction. A character laments that “the Nile rat kills the crocodile, the swordfish kills the whale, the book will kill the edifice,” after looking from a book to this structure and quipping “This will kill that.” A mob attacking this structure is burned alive by molten (*) lead poured down its rain gutters. A character heroically swings down from the bell rope of this structure to rescue a woman as she is being led to the gallows. Claude Frollo is pushed to his death from this structure for laughing during Esmeralda’s execution. For 10 points, name this Parisian landmark where Quasimodo lives in a Victor Hugo novel.**

ANSWER: *Notre Dame* de Paris

<AG, Long Fiction>

15. **The speaker describes “my forces raz’d, thy banners rais’d within” in a poem asking this woman “whence doth this new assault arise, a conquer’d, yelden, ransack’d heart to win?” In a troubling poem, the speaker concludes: “For Grammar says... That in one speech two Negatives affirm” to rationalize this woman’s repeated rejections. She repeats “No, no, no, no, my dear, let be” in each stanza of the even more rapey “Fourth Song.” Attempting to write love poems to her, the speaker describes (*) “biting my truant pen, beating myself for spite” until his Muse says “Fool... look in thy heart, and write!” Lady Penelope Devereux, who as a child was**

betrothed to the poet, was the basis for this woman, who is honored by a sequence whose thirty first poem begins with the line: “With how sad steps, Oh Moon, thou climb’st the skies.” For 10 points, name this woman who in a Philip Sidney sequence captivates Astrophil.

ANSWER: **Stella**

<AG, Poetry>

16. **This novel’s conclusion beseeches the reader to “Be true! Be true! Be true! Show freely to the world, if not your worst, yet some trait whereby the worst may be inferred!” This novel declares: “let men tremble to win the hand of woman, unless they win along with it the utmost passion of her art!”**, in a scene in which a woman curses her husband while her daughter fashions a mermaid costume out of seaweed from a nearby tidepool. A girl in this novel is warned that: **“We must not always talk in the marketplace of what happens to us in the forest,”** when she is tempted to go up and return the (*) kiss of a man she recognizes at a procession. A character in this novel climbs up a scaffold, declares himself to be the “one sinner of the world” before his congregation and dies, right after delivering a wildly popular sermon on Election Day. This novel ends by revealing that its protagonist shares a headstone with Arthur Dimmesdale bearing the title symbol. For 10 points, name this novel about the adulterous Hester Prynne, by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

ANSWER: *The **Scarlet Letter***

<AG, Long Fiction>

17. **These things title a poem whose speaker calls humans “loveless vessels,” since “we sell / loose vows / so we love / less well.” That poem is found in the “Oiseau” section of *Eunoia*, a collection in which each chapter is limited to just one of these things, written by the Canadian poet Christian Bok. Images of “blood spat, lovely lips laughing / In anger or penitential ecstasies” and “the last Trumpet, strange crescendo blast, / Navigated silences of Worlds and Angels” evoke these things in a poem promising them that “One day I’ll tell your (*) embryonic births.”** A section of a long poem marked “Second Delirium: Alchemy of the Word” places the words “black,” “white,” “red,” “blue,” and “green” after each of these things. For 10 points, the speaker of Rimbaud’s *A Season in Hell* claims to have invented colors for what speech sounds, which are omitted in lipogrammatic texts like George Perec’s novel *A Void*?

ANSWER: **vowels** [prompt on letters]

<JC, Poetry>

18. **The title character of this poem “revels in a region of sighs” and “has seen that the tears are not dry on / These cheeks, where the worm never dies.” This poem is set when its speaker’s “heart was volcanic” as “the lavas that restlessly roll / Their sulphurous currents down Yanaak / In the ultimate climes of the pole.” This poem, which was commissioned for a lecture on public speaking, often repeats nearly-identical phrases in adjacent lines, as with the paired images of “leaves that were crispèd and (*) sere” and “leaves that were withering and sere.”** The speaker of this poem asks Psyche “What is written ... / On the door of this legended tomb?” and is told that it is the vault of the title character. This poem repeatedly mentions that it is set “by the dank tarn of Auber, / In the ghoulish-woodland of Weir.” For 10 points, name this poem by Edgar Allan Poe about a man who unwittingly walks to where he had buried his beloved.

ANSWER: “To -- -- -. **Ulalume**: A Ballad”

<AG, Poetry>

19. **In an essay, this author observed that inaccurate fairground reproductions of *The Flight of Charles the Bold After the Battle of Murten* conveyed a sense of looming catastrophe absent in the original painting. This author declared that every action or expression should**

be prefaced by a denial of other possibilities, offering as an example the sentence: “he was not pleased but amazed.” He advocated a tripartite examination of plot, formal structure, and attitudes, as part of the *fabel* mode of analysis he proposed in “A Short Organum for the (*) Theater.” In the 1930s, this author produced a number of didactic pieces to be performed in non-standard settings such as factories, which he called *Lehrstücke*, or “lesson plays.” In his essay “On Chinese Acting,” this author theorized that looking at the audience without breaking the fourth wall generates a “distancing effect” between them and the stage. For 10 points, name this German playwright who promoted a form of “epic theater” with plays such as *Mother Courage and Her Children*.

ANSWER: Bertolt **Brecht** [or Eugen Berthold Friedrich **Brecht**]

<AG, Drama>

20. In a dream described in this novel, clay horses, bulls, and humans with exaggerated genitals grow to an enormous size and march silently across the world. A character in this novel receives a piece of ham with an inlaid gold coin, which he pockets and forgets about until he is suddenly attacked by his traveling companion Viktor, whom he viciously stabs to death with his hunting knife. That character in this novel moves in with his companion Lene into a house in the forest in order to avoid the (*) Black Death. A character in this novel depicts his friend as Saint John after apprenticing himself to the famed sculptor Master Niklaus. After having sex with a gypsy woman in a field of flowers, this novel’s younger title character decides to leave the Mariabronn cloister. For 10 points, name this novel contrasting a sensual novice at a German monastery with his rational teacher, by Hermann Hesse.

ANSWER: **Narcissus and Goldmund** [or **Narziß und Goldmund**; or **Death and the Lover**]

<AG, Long Fiction>