

It's Lit

Written by Auroni Gupta, Jason Cheng, and Eliza Grames

Packet 2

1. In the final story from an episodic novel with this unusual property, a girl takes a newborn kitten from its mother, who then haunts many of her subsequent dreams. The life story of Cheradenine Zakalwe is told through a set of chapters with this property indicated with Roman numerals, in Iain M. Banks's third Culture novel, *Use of Weapons*. A novel with this property ends with a vision of female archers practicing on an open field, followed by an afterword claiming inspiration from a "certain paragraph" in (*) *Slaughterhouse Five* in which Billy Pilgrim watches a war movie. This narrative property is shared by Julia Alvarez's *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* and a play describing the seven-year affair between Emma and Jerry. For 10 points, name this unusual narrative property of Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* and Martin Amis's *Time's Arrow*, which is about a Nazi doctor who appears to resurrect death camp victims.

ANSWER: they are told in reverse chronological order [or they are told backwards; accept descriptions to those effects]

<AG, Miscellaneous>

2. This author wrote an essay warning against seeking fulfillment in life, since "we purchase the meanest of its secrets at a cost that is monstrous and infinite." Another essay by this author proclaims the story of George Washington and the cherry tree to be the single most damaging moral tale in all of literature. An essay by this author discusses an article subtitled "A Protest," which argues that the true aim of art is the telling of "beautiful" (*) untrue things. This author's book *Intentions* includes a pair of essays styled as Platonic dialogues between Gilbert and Ernest, and Vivian and Cyril. This author bolded the statement that "All art is quite useless" in the preface to a novel whose protagonist stabs an artwork that ages along with him. For 10 points, name this English author who promoted the doctrine of art for art's sake in his essays "The Critic as Artist" and "The Decay of Lying," and in his novel *The Picture of Dorian Grey*.

ANSWER: Oscar Wilde [or Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde]

<AG, Nonfiction>

3. A story in this collection ends with a gunfight on a handwritten page, in which the combatants take cover behind the l's and strafe past the v's, u's, m's, and n's. Two characters bet on everything from the outcome of the Arsenal-Real Madrid semifinal match to whether Balzac will make Lucien commit suicide at the end of *Les Illusions perdues* in a story from this collection. An incoming herd of rhinoceros prompts Zahn to appoint as commander of the "New Ones" the last (*) surviving example of the title animals, in a story from this collection. Mrs. Vhd Vhd gets stuck after climbing a ladder to follow her deaf lover on a milk-gathering expedition on an astronomical object in this collection's first story. Most stories in this collection, including "The Dinosaurs" and "The Distance of the Moon," are narrated by an omnipresent being who observes key events in the history of the universe. For 10 points, name this collection, which like its follow-up *t zero* is narrated by Qfwfq, written by Italo Calvino.

ANSWER: Cosmicomics

<EG, Short Fiction>

4. The narrator of a novel by this author imagines that the world transforms into "an entomologist's dream," as the earth tilts off-axis with Matisse at its center. The narrator chances upon a factory where mutilated people walk off with their eventual coffins in a

dream sequence titled “Into the Night Life” from a novel by this author. This author declared at the start of a novel that “this is not a book,” but rather “a prolonged insult, a gob of spit in the face of Art, a kick in the pants to God, Man, Destiny, Time, Beauty.” That novel by this author ends with its protagonist (*) wading into the Seine and imagining himself merging with the universe. This author’s sophomore novel, *Black Spring*, came on the heels of his book whose 1961 publication by Grove Press resulted in an obscenity trial that went to the Supreme Court. This author’s lover Anais Nin helped edit that novel, which follows his time in Paris as a struggling writer. For 10 points, name this author of *Tropic of Cancer*.

ANSWER: Henry Miller

<JC, Long Fiction>

5. Mario Praz traced the origin of a passage about one of these physical objects to Giovanni Battista Guarini’s Madrigal 96. In Shakespeare’s Sonnet 116, “rosy lips and cheeks” fall within one of these objects formed by Time’s “bending sickle.” In explicating the “dissociation of sensibility,” T.S. Eliot declared a passage about one of these objects to be more graceful than a similar description of a chessboard in Cowley’s *To Destiny*. In that passage, a component of this object “leans and hearkens” and “grows (*) erect” as the other part “comes home.” The lines “Thy firmness makes my circle just, / And makes me end where I begun” conclude an extended metaphysical conceit about “stiff twin” ones. For 10 points, in “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning,” John Donne likened souls to a pair of points on what drawing instrument?

ANSWER: a compass

<AG, Poetry>

6. A character in this play unusually prays to a god whom she addresses as “the fixed law of Nature or man’s Mind,” a pointed reference to contemporary schools of philosophy. A character in this play first appears singing a demented parody of a wedding hymn while brandishing a flaming torch in each hand, and later mirrors a gesture from *Agamemnon* by ripping off her woolen headbands and casting them to the wind. A work by the obscure author Xenocles bafflingly won first prize at the 415 BC City Dionysia over the tetralogy that this play forms with (*) *Alexander*, *Palamedes*, and *Sisyphus*. Near the end of this play, the herald Talthybius balances the corpse of the infant Astyanax on Hector’s shield, and Menelaus declares that he will take one of the title characters back to Sparta to execute her. For 10 points, name this tragedy about the fates of Andromache, Cassandra, Helen, and Hecuba, written by Euripides.

ANSWER: *The Trojan Women* [or *Troades*]

<AG, Drama>

7. This author wrote a poem in which the world dissolves into a “mole-colored and bare” landscape, in which the “crack of a rifle” portends the “soft and papery crash / Of a great branch somewhere unseen falling to earth.” He wrote that “no prayers or incense rose up in those hours / Which grew to be years,” in the interval that a man bleeds out after being shot in the stomach, in a poem that compares the legs of a different man to “blistered sticks on which the black sap / Bubbled and burst.” This author included “A Hill” and other poems inspired by his wartime service in (*) Germany in his Pulitzer-winning collection *The Hard Hours*, which features a poem in which a Pole is forced to bury two Jews alive. This author wrote a poem about a girl who is angry at being “addressed / As a sort of mournful cosmic last resort” despite having “read / Sophocles in a fairly good translation.” For 10 points, name this American poet of “More Light! More Light!,” who parodied Matthew Arnold in his “The Dover Bitch.”

ANSWER: Anthony Hecht

<JC, Poetry>

8. A poem about a man with this profession posits that “Meteor-moons” and “balls of blaze” appeared after “the earth had done her best... to scale the sky.” A different poem pictures a man with this profession as a “ghostly cricket, creaking where a house was burned,” imploring that his city turn into “dust and ashes.” A man with this profession turns to the “ineffable Name,” who is the “builder and maker... of houses not made with hands,” for consolation when his metaphorical “palace” crumbles, and ends the poem resolving to “try to sleep.” This profession of (*) “Abt Vogler” is shared by the addressee of an octameter poem in rhyming triplets, who asks: “What of soul was left, I wonder, when the kissing had to stop?” in response to a couple making out while asking him to perform during a masked ball in Venice. For 10 points, name this profession of Baldassare Galuppi, whose “toccata” is the subject of a poem by Robert Browning.

ANSWER: composer [or musician; or organist; or pianist]

<AG, Poetry>

9. A character in this novel asserts that modern drama is encapsulated by a marionette play in which Orestes is too distracted by a tear in the ceiling of the stage to avenge his father. In the preface to a later edition, its author dunks on the critics who jeered at its absurdity, by quoting a real-life article from a Milan newspaper mirroring this novel’s plot. An argument in this novel culminates in the protagonist’s Aunt Scholastica moulding wet dough on the face of his tyrannous mother-in-law Pescatore. The title character narrates this novel to Don Eligio while working a sinecure as custodian of the neglected Boccamazza (*) library. The corpse of a gambler who had shot himself compels the newly-wealthy protagonist of this novel to leave Monte Carlo, whereupon he assumes the name Adriano Reis after seeing a newspaper article reporting his own death. For 10 points, name this novel by Luigi Pirandello.

ANSWER: The Late Mattia Pascal [or The Former Mattia Pascal; or Il fu Mattia Pascal]

<AG, Long Fiction>

10. This novel cautions the reader to “fear the time when the bombs stop falling while the bomber lives -- for every bomb is proof that the spirit has not died.” This novel’s mostly-odd interchapters, which its author called “pace changers,” include one adopting the persona of a profiteering used car salesman. The narrator of this novel observes that “in the souls of the people, the” title objects are “filling and growing heavy,” in a chapter preceding one in which a policeman bashes the (*) skull of a suspected Communist with a pickaxe handle. The protagonist of this novel promises his mother that “Wherever they’re a fight so hungry people can eat, I’ll be there,” before leaving to take up his ex-preacher friend’s cause organizing workers. In this novel’s final scene, a man starving in a barn is breastfed by Rose of Sharon. For 10 points, name this novel about the new life of the impoverished Joad family in California, by John Steinbeck.

ANSWER: The Grapes of Wrath

<AG, Long Fiction>

11. In a play, this character boasts that his “philosopher’s brain” can grasp the knowledge of Nature similar to the way a husbandman’s hand grasps a plough. Despite having forged a passport for a Slovene agitator to escape Trieste at the outset of World War I, a modern incarnation of this character is drowned by a Slovene mob in John Berger’s novel G. In an earlier literary appearance, his intentionally ambiguous pairing with Lady Adeline is justified by the author’s comment: “‘Tis strange, but (*) true; for truth is always strange; / Stranger than fiction.” This character is played by the same actor who portrays John Tanner in a third-act dream sequence in *Man and Superman*, which is set in Hell. He earns the favor of Catherine the Great and beds all the women in a Turkish harem in an unfinished satiric epic in *ottava rima*. For 10 points,

name this easily-seduced libertine who stars in a Byron poem.

ANSWER: Don **Juan** [or **G.** before mentioned; or Don **Juan** Tenorio; or Don **Giovanni**]
<AG, Miscellaneous>

12. In a play by this author, an old man travels to his burned-out childhood home, where he watches the ghosts of his parents reenact the consummation of their marriage. At the end of one of his plays, an old woman observes that “The years like great black oxen tread the world... And I am broken by their passing feet,” in a speech in which she begs to join her mistress in heaven. A play by this author of *Purgatory* features Oona’s song “Who will go drive with (*) Fergus now,” which was set to music by James Joyce. A noblewoman sells her soul to save famine victims in a play by this author, who adapted the conventions of Noh theater to dramatize a myth about Cuchulainn in *At the Hawk’s Well*. This author premiered his verse drama *The Countess Cathleen* at the Abbey Theater, which he co-founded with Edward Martyn and Lady Gregory. For 10 points, name this godfather of Irish theater, who also wrote poems such as “The Second Coming.”

ANSWER: W. B. **Yeats**

<AG, Drama>

13. Two characters in a novel by this author lead a revolt in a warehouse processing dog carcasses in Guangzhou. Near the end of a novel by this author, all the characters file into a bathhouse and ass-fuck each other in a giant caterpillar chain. The youth group Forward Together erected a papier-mâché toilet outside the Bolshoi Theatre through which to toss copies of a novel by this author in which a clone of Khrushchev sodomizes a clone of Stalin. The identities of 23000 blue-eyed, blonde-haired people are revealed by bashing their (*) hearts with a hammer made from the title magic substance collected from the Tunguska meteor, in the sequel to this author’s novel *Bro*. Andrei Danilovich Komiega drives a Mercedov mounted with a dog’s head and terrorizes opponents of a revitalized Russian Empire in his best-known novel. For 10 points, name this contemporary Russian novelist of the *Ice* trilogy and the *Day of the Oprichnik*.

ANSWER: Vladimir **Sorokin** [or Vladimir Georgievich **Sorokin**]

<AG, Long Fiction>

14. The speaker contemplates “the boundless silence / of a slender girl” so that “Our two / maladies / run together,” in this author’s poem “Nostalgia.” The sight of a “slain comrade” with “clawed fingers / ripping / into my silence” and “mouth snarling / at the full moon” prompts the speaker to declare: “Never did I / so / cling to life,” in this author’s poem “Vigil,” which appears alongside his other verses written while serving in the trenches of World War I in his book *The Buried Port*. English-language editions of this man’s poetry often opt not to translate his poem “Morning,” which reads, in its entirety, (*) “M’illuminò / d’immenso.” In attacking the arcane verses of this poet’s 1933 collection *The Feeling of Time*, the critic Francesco Flora coined the name for a group of poets to which he belonged alongside the future Nobel Laureates Salvatore Quasimodo and Eugenio Montale. For 10 points, name this Italian poet who founded the Hermetic school of poetry.

ANSWER: Giuseppe **Ungaretti**

<AG, Poetry>

15. Members of this group call out “Yalla” while worshipping images of cats, which they unusually kept in their farms to protect their grain from mice. The seal of this organization depicts its members riding two to a horse, symbolizing their poverty, leading to rampant speculation that they’re gay. This group traces the paths of mysterious “telluric currents” to a common hub called the Omphalos, the Navel of the World, as discussed in a

“coded manuscript” by (*) Colonel Ardenti. A secret society chasing after a map used by this group hounds Jacopo Belbo, prompting a scholar of this group named Casaubon to take refuge in a Paris museum. For 10 points, what group’s plot for world domination spurs the creation of a mock conspiracy theory called the “Plan” in *Foucault’s Pendulum*?

ANSWER: Knights Templar [or Templars]

<AG, Long Fiction>

16. This author addressed the material circumstances that made him “honored like Christ / with his crown of thorns” in his poem “Poverty.” After being arrested for publishing an anti-British poem in his magazine *The Comet*, this author undertook a thirty-nine day hunger strike with his fellow prisoners. This author is best-known for a poem consisting mainly of declarative statements such as “I am the hurricane, I am the cyclone / I destroy all that I find in my path!” This author incorporated the meter of the (*) ghazal into his corpus of nearly four thousand lyrics, such as “The Song of Destruction,” collectively known as his namesake “geeti” or “sangeet.” Due of the popularity of his poem which ends: “I raise my head beyond this world, / High, ever erect and alone” and to his involvement in the Indian independence movement, this author was nicknamed the “Rebel Poet.” For 10 points, name this fiery national poet of Bangladesh.

ANSWER: Kazi Nazrul Islam

<AG, Poetry>

17. Upon hearing about an execution method in which people are run over by trucks to save ammunition, the narrator of this story quips that it doesn’t save gas. The protagonist of this story is unsure about the source of the dampness in his pants, so he pisses on a nearby pile of coal dust just to be safe. Its main character realizes how much Concha will cry when she learns that he is dead, and does not notice that he is caked in sweat from terror until the (*) Belgian doctor who had been appointed for him, Tom Steinbock, and Juan Mirbal points out that it is freezing in the cellar where it is set. After an argument with his cousin, Ramon Gris foolishly abandons his hiding place and heads for the cemetery, which is where the protagonist of the story flippantly says he’ll be. For 10 points, name this story set in the Spanish Civil War, in which Pablo Ibbita is rounded up to be shot against the title structure, by Jean-Paul Sartre.

ANSWER: “The Wall” [or “Le mur”]

<AG, Short Fiction>

18. In the prologue to a story about one of these men, a government official comes to a teahouse in Uji to collect amusing anecdotes to fill a storybook. Another of these men seizes a stick from a boy chasing a dog and beats him with it, only to realize that the stick is the slat with which the boy held the title object in place. People from all over Japan flock to a pond where one of these men named E’in had mischievously erected a sign suggesting that a (*) dragon will ascend to heaven. In “Within a Grove,” a character with this livelihood describes seeing the murdered man armed and on horseback with his wife as the second witness to testify, following the woodcutter. Following the advice of a Chinese doctor, a character with this livelihood named Zenchi Naigu boils and stomps on a body part in an attempt to shrink it. For 10 points, in stories such as “The Nose,” Ryunosuke Akutagawa mocked the piety of people of what livelihood?

ANSWER: Buddhist monks [or priests]

<AG, Short Fiction>

19. The protagonist of this novel reflects on the line “What greater grief than the loss of one’s native land” from Euripides’s *Medea* after learning that his father’s best friend was shot to death in a fight over a bottle of wine. Outraged that it is thirty years old, the

protagonist of this novel throws his geometry textbook and hits his teacher in the face. The sister of this novel's title character moves to Montana in search for a better life, but ends up burning to death in her trailer after (*) passing out during a wild party. This novel includes a set of hand-drawn illustrations by Ellen Forney, representing the cartoons that its protagonist sketches in his free time. Its protagonist alienates his best friend Rowdy by opting to go to school in the rich white town of Reardan. For 10 points, name this young adult novel about the upbringing of the teenager Arnold "Junior" Spirit on the Spokane Indian Reservation, by Sherman Alexie.

ANSWER: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

<AG, Long Fiction>

20. This speech laments that “in spite of the strides of alimentation and defecation,” man “wastes and pines.” To aid actors performing this speech, its author divided it into three sections, the last of which is anchored by the phrase: “the earth abode of stones.” The other characters “protest violently” while listening to this speech, with one finally cutting it short by seizing the speaker’s hat. An independent Australian publishing house established by David Malouf is named (*) “Puncher & Wattmann” in reference to this speech. This speech often features repetitions of syllables within words, producing such delightful phrases as “Acacacademy of Anthropopopometry” and “quaquaquaqua.” For 10 points, name this monologue that results when an otherwise-silent character from *Waiting for Godot* is instructed to “Think.”

ANSWER: Lucky's monologue in *Waiting for Godot* [or Lucky's speech]

<AG, Drama>