

It's Lit

Written by Auroni Gupta, Jason Cheng, and Eliza Grames

Packet 3

1. **Brian Johnston wrote that this author's final twelve plays constituted a single Hegelian framework, in his study titled for this author's *Cycle*. Arthur Miller compared this man's plays to a "spiritual CAT scan" simultaneously depicting characters from within and without in his essay on this author "and the Drama of Today." A detailed analysis of this author's plays informs a savage critique of the "Womanly Woman" and other sacrosanct ideals of Victorian society, in (*) Shaw's essay about the "Quintessence" of his style. This author's largely one-sided rivalry with August Strindberg was kicked off by the latter author criticizing the feminism of his play which ends with a woman slamming the door on her marriage. For 10 points, name this author who depicted Nora Helmer's self-awakening in *A Doll's House*.**

ANSWER: Henrik **Ibsen**

<AG, Miscellaneous>

2. **The narrator perceives "a natural instinct to abjure man as the blot on an otherwise kindly universe" when he looks away from this action to a herd of horses gently rubbing each others' necks. A woman being tried at the Town Hall for disorderly behavior at church turns the tables and accuses the presiding magistrate of having performed this action twenty years earlier. This action takes place in a furmity tent at Weydon-Priors, where its perpetrator repeatedly passes his bowl of porridge to be (*) spiked with rum; afterwards, he penitently swears off alcohol for twenty-one years, the length of time he has been alive. After the sum inches up to five guineas, a sailor completes this action and leaves with Susan and Elizabeth-Jane. For 10 points, name this cruel action performed by Michael Henchard at the start of *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.**

ANSWER: Michael Henchard **selling his family** [or Michael Henchard **selling his wife** and daughter; or Michael Henchard **selling his daughter** and wife; accept auctioning in place of selling]

<AG, Long Fiction>

3. **This critic argued that McCarthyism was insufficiently opposed by college students in part because they were too busy close reading poems, in a book in which he skewered the privilege of authorial intent advocated in E.D. Hirsch's *Validity in Interpretation*. This critic wrote that Shakespeare was simultaneously a political conservative and a faithful chronicler of sexual desire, in his books *William Shakespeare* and *Shakespeare and Society*. This critic wrote a book arguing that (*) Heathcliff was a refugee from the Irish potato famine. In his best-known book, this critic profiles structuralism, New Criticism, psychoanalysis, and other schools of criticism while promoting his own belief that texts cannot be stripped from their political and historical contexts. For 10 points, name this author of the survey text *Literary Theory: An Introduction*, a contemporary Marxist British critic.**

ANSWER: Terry **Eagleton**

<AG, Nonfiction>

4. **A character unconvincingly states that "it is not words that shake me thus" in a delirious speech in which he thrice involuntarily blurts out the name of this object, as the stage directions specify that he "falls into a trance." A two-hundred year old sibyl supposedly used sacred silkworms and dye extracted from the hearts of mummified girls to fashion this strawberry-spotted object, which an Egyptian woman pawned off to the title character's mother, promising that it would guarantee her husband's (*) faithfulness. After truthfully admitting to picking this object up by chance, Emilia is stabbed to death by her husband. The**

title character of the play is led to believe that Cassio received this object from a Venetian woman he slept with. For 10 points, name this object belonging to Desdemona, with which Iago successfully convinces Othello of his wife's infidelity.

ANSWER: Desdemona's **handkerchief**

<AG, Drama>

5. Because of an ongoing performance of *Aida*, a character in this novel frequently interrupts conversations to hum the lyric "From the sacred shores of the Nile." A committee in this novel pressures that character to relinquish two of the seven rooms in his house. This novel opens with its narrator howling in pain from being scalded by boiling water thrown out the window of a nearby canteen, just before he locks onto the scent of sausages. The fifth chapter of this novel is styled as a lengthy medical diary kept by Dr. (*) Bormental, recording how its test subject learns curse words. The title character of this novel chases cats on behalf of the Moscow Cleaning Department and adopts the name Polygraph Polygraphovich after having his pituitary gland and testicles surgically replaced with those of a man. For 10 points, name this satiric science fiction novel about the canine Sharik, by Mikhail Bulgakov.

ANSWER: *The **Heart of a Dog*** [or ***Sobach'e serdtse***]

<AG, Long Fiction>

6. This character delivers a monologue about "gorgeous lunk-heads" who eye her at bars but never approach her, as she "sits there with her dress up over her head.. suffocating." At the start of the third act, she giddily makes a clinking noise with the ice in her drink and babbles like a baby. The play ends with this woman repeating the words "I... am... I... am" as her husband gently places a hand on her shoulder and sings to her. A fake gun that fires parasols is held up to this character's head soon before she responds to an insult about her (*) father's red, mouselike eyes by insulting her husband for "flopping" in the History Department. This woman becomes furious when told that her son died in a car accident while swerving to avoid hitting a porcupine, because it becomes obvious that her son is fictional. For 10 points, name this woman who plays "Get the Guests" while entertaining Nick and Honey with her husband George, in Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

ANSWER: **Martha**

<JC, Drama>

7. This object is likened to a gunpowder flask issuing forth "light squibs" at the start of John Donne's "A Nocturnal upon St. Lucy's Day." The title woman of Richard Lovelace's "To Amarantha" is instructed to "shake [her] head and scatter" her hair as if it were this object. A poem addressed to this object commands it to "call country ants to harvest offices," "tell court huntsmen that the king will ride," and "chide / Late (*) school boys and sour prentices," addressing it both as a "saucy pedantic wretch" and a "busy old fool." Andrew Marvell's "To His Coy Mistress" ends with its speaker defiantly proclaiming that "though we cannot make" this object "stand still / Yet we will make him run." For 10 points, name this object whose appearance is lamented by the speaker of many aubades, such as a John Donne poem in which it is "Rising."

ANSWER: the **sun**

<AG/JC, Poetry>

8. A character in this story delivers a monologue declaring that man was "Dispossessed of Eden. Dispossessed of Canaan, and those who dispossessed Him dispossessed Him dispossessed." This story ends with a man yelling "Don't touch a one of them! They're mine!" as he smacks the dismantled components of his gun against a gum-tree full of

squirrels. In the oft-omitted fourth section of this story, its protagonist ties the downfall of the South to God's curse upon man for raping its land in a (*) stream-of-consciousness dialogue, complete with a 1600 word sentence, in which he tells his cousin Cass Edmonds that he is renouncing his claim to the family plantation. In this story, the half-Chickasaw tracker Sam Fathers suffers a fatal seizure at the exact moment that Boon Hogganbeck delivers a knife-strike to the heart of Old Ben. For 10 points, name this centerpiece of the collection *Go Down, Moses*, a Faulkner story in which Ike McCaslin joins the hunt for the title animal.

ANSWER: "The Bear"

<AG, Short Fiction>

9. This character recounts holding her breath to match the rhythm of her dog, who had suddenly disappeared earlier in the novel. This character routinely seeks solitude in a ring of boxwood bushes she calls her "emerald closet." This character is disturbed by a figurine of a slave holding coins in its mouth that she sees at the house of the abolitionist Bodwin couple, who hire her after she leaves her house by herself for the first time in twelve years. Soon after (*) Stamp Paid saves her from having her head dashed against a wall, this character drinks her sister's blood while nursing at her mother's breast. This character is named after the white girl who had midwived her after her mother's escape from the Sweet Home plantation. For 10 points, name this youngest daughter of Sethe in Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved*.

ANSWER: Denver

<AG, Long Fiction>

10. A man in this play calms down his wife by describing an annual holiday festival in his hometown which was ruined for him when he saw twenty-seven men murdered in a street fight. A count who had earlier in this play been told not to play cards at the embassy with only "eighty-seven dollars" is later murdered by a man who tells him "you should not gamble with your life" after a short discussion about his plans to get a visa from (*) Von Steitz. This play is set in the estate of the Farrellys, where it is discovered that a man has been hiding \$23,000 collected over the years to fund a resistance movement. Upon being threatened over his plans to save Max, who had once saved him from the Gestapo, Kurt kills Teck de Brancovis in this play. For 10 points, name this play about the Mullers, a family of anti-Nazi activists living in Washington D.C., written by Lillian Hellman.

ANSWER: Watch on the Rhine

<JC, Drama>

11. When he is trying to move stealthily, one of this author's characters muffles his knees, which are repeatedly said to crack like pistol shots. A character aims to get revenge on the scientists who killed all the animals in his zoo with a death-ray, in a novel whose quality is thought to have been affected by this author's advanced stage of Parkinson's. In the middle novel of a trilogy by this author, a torrential downpour transforms the setting into an archipelago navigable only by boat. A character goes insane and imagines himself to be a Death (*) Owl, after his beloved library is torched by his twin sisters Cora and Clarice in the climactic scene of a novel by this author. The Machiavellian kitchen boy Steerpike schemes to take control of a decaying castle ruled by Lord Sepulcrave in a novel by this author. For 10 points, name this English author of *Titus Groan*, the first entry in the *Gormenghast* series of gothic fantasy novels.

ANSWER: Mervyn Peake

<AG, Long Fiction>

12. This poem repeats an image from its author's "First Caprice in North Cambridge" by

mentioning the sound of “sparrows in the gutters,” which provoke “such a vision of the street / As the street hardly understands.” Citing “short square fingers stuffing pipes” and “eyes / Assured of certain certainties,” the speaker of this poem admits that “I am moved by fancies that are curled / Around these images, and cling: / The notion of some infinitely gentle / Infinitely suffering thing.” This third poem in (*) *Prufrock and Other Observations* cyclically ends by observing that “the worlds revolve like ancient women / Gathering fuel in vacant lots.” This poem is initially set at “six o’clock,” when “the winter evening settles down / With smell of steaks in passageways.” For 10 points, name this poem by T.S. Eliot titled for introductory pieces of music.

ANSWER: “Preludes”

<AG, Poetry>

13. Several of these people cover themselves in raw chicken, which quickly rots in the heat of the sun, to drive away invaders from a town in Lombardy. The prologue to a poem about these people contains a punning apostrophe to the daisy as the “eye of the day.” A jewel-encrusted mirror illuminates the positive qualities of these people, in a text whose main character uses a pen as a trowel to remove the mud covering them. In the earliest major work of literature in decasyllabic iambic pentameter, Cupid and Alceste demand that (*) Geoffrey Chaucer describe the virtues of these people. Jean de Meun’s tirades against them in the *Roman de la Rose* prompted a reply in which Reason, Rectitude, and Justice entrust the author with building a safe haven for these people. For 10 points, name these people who inhabit a metaphorical “city” in an allegorical prose work by Christine de Pizan, the first known professional French author of this type.

ANSWER: women [or ladies; or other synonyms]

<AG, Miscellaneous>

14. The speaker of a poem in this collection promises to “turn, singularly calm / At forehead and at fingers rather wise, / Holding the bandage ready for your eyes.” The jarring line “thousands--killed in action” opens a three-poem “appendix” subtitled “Leaves from a loose-leaf diary” that appears in the middle of this collection, followed by the poem “The Children of the Poor.” The title character exclaims “How pinchy is my room!” in this collection’s first poem, which begins “Weeps out of western country something new” to describe her (*) birth. The middle part of this collection adapts Chaucer’s meter over forty-three stanzas describing the title character’s fantasy romance with a tan-colored knight who is conscripted to fight in World War II. In this collection, sections titled “Notes from the Childhood and the Girlhood” and “The Womanhood” sandwich a mock-heroic epic titled “The Anniad.” For 10 points, name this collection detailing the upbringing of an African-American girl, written by Gwendolyn Brooks.

ANSWER: Annie Allen

<AG, Poetry>

15. One of this author’s characters imports bird eggs from zoos across Europe and Africa and hatches them to create his personal aviary, complete with a condor who shares his chamberpot. The narrator of a story by this author unpacks a giant black folding telescope in his room the morning after he climbs in bed next to his father in a facility run by Dr. Gotard where everyone sleeps all the time. A collection by this author ends by recounting how the narrator’s uncle Edward was transformed into an electric bell who rings himself to death, after getting roped into experiments conducted by the narrator’s (*) father, who himself transforms into a cockroach. Despite being offered protection by an officer who enjoyed the black-and-white illustrations he made for his books, this author was shot to death by a Gestapo officer in 1942. For 10 points, name this Polish Jewish writer whose surviving stories are collected in *Sanatorium Under the Sign of the Hourglass* and *The Street of Crocodiles*.

ANSWER: Bruno Schulz
<AG, Short Fiction>

16. **As a child, the protagonist of this novel places a group of baby chicks in the cage of a hen, only to watch in horror as she systematically pecks them to death. A character in this novel alienates his family by dating a French divorcée and touring Europe as a wildly successful classical musician. From a packet of letters and other documents kept by her politically active Aunt Emily, the protagonist of this novel learns that her mother survived the bombing of (*) Nagasaki.** At the start of this novel, its protagonist spots the characteristic burnt loaf of bread baked by her uncle Isamu, whose death forces her to take days off her dead end job as a teacher in rural Alberta and to connect with her aunt, the title character. For 10 points, name this autobiographical novel about Naomi Nakane, a deportee to a Japanese Canadian internment camp, written by Joy Kogawa.

ANSWER: Obasan
<AG, Long Fiction>

17. **In the epilogue to this novel, a character weeps upon recognizing three girls from his youth in a newspaper article reporting that they had hanged themselves because their father could not afford their dowries. To maximize public sympathy, a “Beggarmaster” in this novel manages a troupe of people with diverse deformities, such as being legless or having no eyes. In its climactic scene, two of this novel’s main characters are piled into a truck and taken to the Family (*) Planning Center, where one has his legs amputated and the other is castrated after both undergo compulsory vasectomies. To remain financially independent, a woman in this novel takes on the paying boarder Maneck Kohlah and works the untouchable tailors Ishvar and Omprakash under sweatshop conditions.** For 10 points, name this set at the apartment of the Parsi woman Dina Dilal, the best-known novel by Canadian-Indian novelist Rohinton Mistry.

ANSWER: A Fine Balance
<AG, Long Fiction>

18. **A character in this story pouts that she’ll “go through life without ever having a kiss with Brazilian trimmings.” This story ends with one of its main characters warn his old idol Anton Laurier to install a padlock and never to answer raps on his door. A newborn daughter in this story is given the middle name “Hume,” after the name of the armchair where her mother sat when she met her father. A woman in this story agrees to read a volume of Pepys’ diary if her husband joins a gym, leading to her (*) writing a book titled *Sandra Pepys, Syncopated* and him becoming a trapeze stuntman, reversing their roles from when she was an actress in a musical comedy and he was a child prodigy at Yale.** For 10 points, name this story symbolizing the athletic and intellectual qualities of Marcia Meadow and Horace Tarbox as the title body parts, by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

ANSWER: “Head and Shoulders”
<AG, Short Fiction>

19. **This author wrote a poem predicting that “the homeless planet at length will be wheel’d thro’ the silence of space / Motherless evermore of an ever-vanishing race.” Philosophers of science often quote his lyric telling a flower that, “if I could understand / What you are, root and all, and all in all, / I should know what God and man is.” This poet’s impressions taking the train from Liverpool to Manchester for the first time inspired his lines “Forward, forward let us range, / Let the (*) great world spin for ever down the ringing grooves of change.”** The uniformitarianism advocated by Charles Lyell influenced a fifteen-line sonnet by this author

about a creature who “hath lain for ages and will lie / Battening upon huge seaworms in his sleep / Until the latter fire shall heat the deep.” For 10 points, name this author who poetically summarized the theories of Darwin as “nature, red in tooth and claw” in his poem *In Memoriam A.H.H.*

ANSWER: Alfred, Lord **Tennyson**

<AG, Poetry>

20. **One of these poems ends with its speaker “Yearning for what I never had / And for what never was.” Robert Hass wrote the lines “Napped half the day; / no one / punished me!” in a poem made up of several of these poems, titled in reference to a “gentle” author of them. Twenty-four of these poems “on a modern theme” appear in the Pulitzer-winning collection *What’s O’ Clock*. A collection subtitled “This Other World” includes 817 of these poems written by Richard (*) Wright in his last years. Regina Weinrich edited a “Book” of these poems by Jack Kerouac, who called them “pops.” The formal structure of this genre inspired a poem that reads: “The apparition of these faces in the crowd; / Petals on a wet, black bough.” For 10 points, Ezra Pound’s “In the Station of a Metro” and several other Imagist poems adapted the sparse style of what poems that follow a 5-7-5 syllable structure?**

ANSWER: **haiku** [or **hokku**]

<AG, Poetry>