

It's Lit

Written by Auroni Gupta, Jason Cheng, and Eliza Grames

Packet 6

1. **A character in this play describes her soul being guided like an “enchanted boat” through “realms where the air we breathe is love,” upon hearing a song called the “Life of Life” while stalled in a chariot atop a mountain. A character hopes “till Hope creates / From its own wreck the thing it contemplates,” in this play’s final speech, which ends: “This is alone Life, Joy, Empire, and Victory.” The downfall of the husband of (*) Thetis in this play is portended by one of the Hours. This play’s protagonist encounters a being who rules all the gods, named Demogorgon, on a spiritual journey he takes with his wife Asia. By repudiating the curse he had laid upon Jupiter, the protagonist of this play is released from his suffering. For 10 points, name this blank verse closet drama about the Titan who stole fire, written by Percy Shelley.**

ANSWER: **Prometheus Unbound**

<AG, Drama>

2. **This author described a natural scene that “Has given my heart / A change of mood / And saved some part / Of a day I had rued,” in his brief poem “Dust of Snow.” This poet published a grouping of brief aphoristic lyrics called “Quantula,” such as one asking the “men of earth” if “all the soul-and-body scars / Were not too much to pay for birth,” in the last of his four Pulitzer-winning collections. In a poem that modifies Dante’s *terza rima*, he wrote that “from what I have tasted of desire / I hold with those who favor” one of the title (*) phenomena, yet admits that “I think I know enough of hate / To say that for destruction,” the other “Is also great / And would suffice.” He wrote a poem about nature’s “hardest hue to hold,” whose title statement follows the rhyming line: “So dawn goes down to day.” For 10 points, name this poet whose collection *New Hampshire* includes his very short lyrics “Fire and Ice” and “Nothing Gold Can Stay.”**

ANSWER: Robert **Frost** [or Robert Lee **Frost**]

<AG, Poetry>

3. **One of this author’s characters tries to make a dictator more approachable by making him wear fuzzy teal blue hats. In a story by this author narrated in second-person, women use a Dissociation Technique when they are raped while swimming in the Mediterranean. In another story by this author, the guitar player for the Flaming Dildos shows up at a concert with a fish that he caught in the East River. The high school student Rhea tells Lou that he’s old when she sees pictures of his children at his apartment when narrating the section “Ask Me If I Care” in a novel by this author, who released the story (*) “Black Box” as a series of tweets. The children of the kleptomaniac Sasha put together a seventy-page PowerPoint, and Lulu uses text-speak to describe performing tasks for the record company executive Benny Salazar, in a novel of interrelated stories by this author. For 10 points, name this author of *A Visit From the Goon Squad*.**

ANSWER: Jennifer **Egan**

<EG, Short Fiction>

4. **A character of this type coincidentally finds the mummy of an ancient king in a cave where he takes refuge from the rain after a battle. At a London pub, two writers hammered out an abortive plan to collect novellas about these types of characters from eight different countries, resulting in a book in which one of them carries around his giant, whistling herniated testicle in a leather sack, as well as the novel *Reasons of State*. A pair of English adventurers surnamed Robertson engage in lively debates with Sultan, the canine (*) alter-**

ego of one of these characters who employs the amanuensis Policarpo Patiño. A two hundred year old person of this type is pecked at by vultures in the opening scene of *The Autumn of the Patriarch* by Gabriel Garcia-Marquez. For 10 points, Mario Vargas Llosa's *The Feast of the Goat* belongs to a genre of Latin American fiction about what kinds of characters, by depicting the assassination of Rafael Trujillo?

ANSWER: **dictators** [or **caudillos**; or **strongmen**; or **despots**; or **patriarchs** before mention; accept any type of **autocratic** leader; prompt on **leaders**; prompt on **heads of state** or similar answers]

<AG, Long Fiction>

5. A woman in this book gets her hair cut one inch shorter each time she goes to the beautician, so she can match her husband. The narrator of this book hands a jar of opium to Ralph Cheever Dunning to dissuade him from jumping off a roof. A chapter detailing how rich tourists hire a "pilot fish" to scout out the best fishing spots was added in the 2009 "Restored Edition" of this book, in which it is followed by a chapter detailing the author's affair with (*) Pauline Pfeiffer. The narrator of this book inspects F. Scott Fitzgerald's penis at a restaurant bathroom to assure him that it's fine. This book describes the manager of an auto shop accusing a repairman of being part of "une generation perdue" for taking too long to fix Gertrude Stein's car, prompting Stein to repurpose the phrase and tell the author that "you are all a lost generation." For 10 points, name this memoir about Ernest Hemingway's time as a young writer in 1920s Paris.

ANSWER: A **Moveable Feast**

<AG, Nonfiction>

6. A character in this poem asserts that "sleep after toil, port after stormy seas, / Ease after war, death after life does greatly please." The eighth stanza of this poem lists "the sayling Pine, the Cedar proud and tall, / The vine-prop Elme, the Poplar never dry," as entries in a catalog of trees. The earliest known version of the rhyme "roses are red, violets are blue" appears in a passage of this poem describing the immaculate conception of Amoretta and (*) Belphebe. The author prays for eternal rest with the God of Sabbath at the end of two cantos appended to this poem after his death, describing a rebellion against Jove led by the angel Mutabilitie. The first canto of this poem notes that "A Gentle Knight was pricking on the Plain," then describes how the knight cuts off the head of the monster Error with the encouragement of Lady Una. For 10 points, name this epic poem allegorizing Queen Elizabeth I as Gloriana, by Edmund Spenser.

ANSWER: The **Faerie Queene**

<AG, Poetry>

7. The protagonist of this novel fantasizes about donating so much blood to the Red Cross, that wounded veterans from around the world come up to personally thank her. Its protagonist responds to being teased for having a crush by flinging a knife at a door. The title character of this novel crawls down a fire escape from the hotel room of a soldier who forces himself on her after buying her a drink at the Blue Moon Cafe. This novel opens with its protagonist playing (*) cards with her younger cousin John Henry and her black housekeeper Berenice. In its climactic scene, the protagonist of this novel is dragged away, bawling, from the steering wheel of the getaway car of the newlyweds Janice and Jarvis. For 10 points, name this novel in which the twelve-year old Frankie Addams tries to join her brother's nuptials, by Carson McCullers.

ANSWER: The **Member of the Wedding**

<AG, Long Fiction>

8. This author wrote a poem stating that "we need the spells, to raise up / return, destroy, and create," asking: "What will be / the sacred word?" The speaker of a poem by this author observes that "love is an evil word / Turn it backwards... see what I mean?" This

author wrote that “Poems are bullshit unless they are / Teeth or trees or lemons piled / On a step,” in a poetic manifesto declaring that “We want poems that kill.” This author wrote a poem declaring that “all the stores will open if you say the magic words... ‘Up (*) against the wall motherfucker this is a stick up!” This founder of the Black Arts Repertory Theater inquired “Who told 4000 Israeli workers at the Twin Towers / To stay home that day” in a poem that got the post of Poet Laureate of New Jersey abolished. For 10 points, name this author of the antisemitic poem “Somebody Blew Up America,” whose black militancy compelled him to change his name from LeRoi Jones.

ANSWER: Amiri **Baraka** [accept LeRoi **Jones** until mentioned]

<JC, Miscellaneous>

9. A novel by this author begins by describing a photograph in which one can see an entrenching tool covered in the blood and hair of eight Germans. The protagonist of a novel by this author ignores several eligible bachelors in favor of her philandering pedophilic uncle, who is nicknamed “The Lecherous Lecturer.” Several kids in one of her novels free animals from their gamekeeper’s traps as part of a secret society called the “Hons.” She described how the middle classes affect a (*) non-U English that is more refined than even the U English of the upper classes in her essay “The English Aristocracy.” This author of the biographies *The Sun King* and *Voltaire in Love* is best known for a pair of thinly-autobiographical novels of the aristocratic Radlett family in interwar England. For 10 points, name this author of the novels *Love in a Cold Climate* and *The Pursuit of Love*, a member of a prominent set of seven English sisters.

ANSWER: Nancy **Mitford**

<AG, Long Fiction>

10. Curious about “the instinctive behaviour of such a creature relative to its center of gravity,” a character in this play tosses a cat out a window. While out on a walk to chop wood, the title character of this play rambles about Freemasons burrowing underneath his feet. Two characters in this play begin an affair after they crowd close together at a fair to see a horse that can count and tell the time. The protagonist of this play earns income by such odd means as holding his water and eating nothing but (*) peas for days for a doctor’s medical experiment, and by shaving his Captain. The title character of this play dances madly at an inn until Käthe notices his bloodstains, and drowns himself in pond while trying to discard the knife with which he had killed his wife Marie. For 10 points, name this Georg Buchner play about a poor soldier who is cuckolded by the Drum Major, which was adapted into an opera by Alban Berg.

ANSWER: **Woyzeck**

<AG, Drama>

11. In the *Bibliotheca*, a character saves himself from being cut down at this location by quickly assembling an altar to his would-be attacker, out of nearby stone. A character is implored to turn his attention to a fig tree near this location, such that he will not leave his wife a widow or his child an orphan. In an example of a narrative device called the *teichoscopia*, which means “viewing from” this location, Iris disguises herself as Laodice to summon (*) Helen to this location, from whose vantage point she identifies various heroes. In Book 6 of the *Iliad*, the infant Astyanax is kissed in this location, where in Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* he will later be thrown to his death. In Book 21, Apollo recounts how he and Poseidon had been forced to serve Laomedon by building this structure. For 10 points, name this fortification that is finally breached with the aid of a wooden horse.

ANSWER: the **walls of Troy** [or the **defenses of Troy**; or synonyms]

<AG, Miscellaneous>

12. One of these two authors was horrified at the mention of a “water-closet” in the initial draft of a poem that the other author set “At four o’clock / in the gun-metal blue dark.” One of these authors wrote that “we can... play at a game of constantly being wrong / with a priceless set of vocabularies,” in a poem recounting her fateful first meeting with the other beside the stone lions of the New York Public Library. One of these authors is instructed to “please come flying” in that (*) “invitation” penned by the other. These two poets observed that “All / external / marks of abuse are present on this / defiant edifice” and “his brown skin hung in strips / like ancient wallpaper” in poems about similar natural scenes in which they respectively declared that “the sea grows old in it” and “everything / was rainbow, rainbow, rainbow!” For 10 points, name these two female American poets and close friends who both wrote poems titled “The Fish.”

ANSWER: Elizabeth **Bishop** and Marianne **Moore**

<AG, Poetry>

13. A performance artist in this novel encourages a woman to squeeze poems out of her vagina before reading them. This novel opens with a Bellow-esque sentence introducing its protagonist as “an Englishman born and bred, almost.” In this novel, a woman who idolizes Germaine Greer moves to a commune where she takes lovers of all genders but refuses to have sex with her husband by arranged marriage, Changez. This novel ends with its protagonist accepting an offer to star on a (*) soap opera playing “the rebellious son of an Indian shopkeeper.” The protagonist of this novel has sex with Charlie, the son of his father’s girlfriend Sue. His father Haroon, who is this novel’s title character, seduces women that he instructs in yoga and other elements of Eastern mysticism. For 10 points, name this novel about the Anglo-Pakistani youth Karim Amir, who grows up on the outskirts of London, by Hanif Kureishi.

ANSWER: *The **Buddha of Suburbia***

<AG, Long Fiction>

14. The speaker raises “cups of wild-ox horn for a toast” to “Ten thousand lifetimes without limit!” at the end of this collection’s poem “Seventh Moon.” The speaker of a poem in this collection laments that while “Chickens settle into nests, / an evening sun sinks away, oxen and sheep wander in,” her “love’s gone off to war / and nothing can stop these thoughts of him.” The speaker gathers the “floating-hearts’s ragged leaves” and lusts after a “fine lady” of “exquisite mystery” in a poem from this collection that opens with the cry of (*) ospreys. This collection, whose only surviving manuscript is prefaced by the commentary of Mao Chang, is subdivided into 160 “Airs of the States,” followed by a set of “Major Court Hymns” and “Eulogies” of Lu, Zhou, and Shang. For 10 points, name this collection of 305 poems from the 11th to 7th centuries BC, one of the “Five Classics” supposedly compiled by Confucius.

ANSWER: ***Book of Songs*** [or *Book of Odes*; or *Classic of Poetry*; or ***Shijing***; or ***Shih-ching***]

<AG, Poetry>

15. A section of a poem with this unusual property recounts a “nocturnal journey where none of us said a word,” during which “our 3 headlights died” and “3 times we stopped to change a flat tire.” The speaker warns that “You will never really know the Mayans” in a poem with this property styled as a missive to his “Brother Albert in Mexico.” A poem with this property titled “Ocean Letter” is included in a volume of “poems of (*) peace and war” written from 1913-16. A much earlier poem with this property observes that “A HEART alone / Is such a stone, / As nothing but / Thy pow’r doth cut.” A poem of this type tells a “Lord, who createdst man in wealth and stone” that, “if I imp my wing on thine, / Affliction shall advance the flight in me.” For 10

points, several poems in Guillaume Apollinaire's *Calligrammes* share what unusual typographical property with George Herbert's poems "The Altar" and "Easter Wings"?

ANSWER: poems that are **shaped** like the objects they depict [or **shape** poems; or **concrete** poems; or **visual** poems; or **calligrammes** before mentioned; accept things along the lines of poems that **physically look different**; or poems that **look weird**]

<AG, Poetry>

16. In a 2009 novel, a mysterious figure known only as the "Masked Angel" delivers bread to the sick of this city. The narrator of a novel set in this city believes that the Bill of Rights should be updated to include "the freedom to imagine." A woman declares that she is "lighting a candle" for her fiance, whom everyone calls "Doctor," before immolating herself in front of a passing motorcade, in a novel set on the "Rooftops" of this city. The narrator of a novel in this city plays Jay (*) Gatsby in a mock trial in which he is accused of promoting the "immorality and decadence of American society." In that novel set here, the narrator resigns from her university position and conducts a private class with seven of her best students, where they study Henry James and Jane Austen. For 10 points, Azar Nafisi recounted "reading Lolita" in what city in an autobiographical novel set during the 1979 Revolution?

ANSWER: **Tehran**

<AG, Long Fiction>

17. In a novel by this author, three sisters are repeatedly described as having lost the boss's cedarwood bed, the overseer's iron bed, and the worker's cowhide bed, ending up at a whorehouse. One of his title characters defies societal expectations of newly married women by dancing barefoot at a Christmas parade. After a mob torches a registry office to destroy a copy of an old survey, one of this author's characters simply hires a gambler to conduct a new survey. Horacio da Silveira and Sinhô Badaró (*) contest a stretch of forest concealing fertile cacao-growing soil in a novel by this author. The wealthy businessman Mundinho Falcão seeks to modernize Ilheus in a novel by this author, in which the Syrian-born bar owner Nacib Saad begins an affair with his new chef. For 10 points, name this author whose novels *The Violent Land* and *Gabriela, Clove, and Cinnamon* profile the history of northeast Brazil.

ANSWER: Jorge **Amado** [or Jorge Leal **Amado** de Faria]

<EG, Long Fiction>

18. A character in this story removes the wedding ring from his wife's finger and clips it into pieces with a pair of wire-cutters. A character in this story wishes he had a name like Jack London's after a man recommends that he read *The Call of the Wild*. While still naked, this story's narrator watches a bald man wearing a baseball cap and ill-fitting overalls named Mr. Venturini painting his house. Early in this story, a "big fat" electrician named Tiny has a seizure during breakfast. In this story, (*) after Roxy offers a good luck kiss to J.P. when she comes to sweep his chimney, the two go on a series of chimney-sweeping dates and eventually marry. This story ends with its narrator resolving to phone his wife to wish her Happy New Year, running the risk that he might have to tell her that he's at a rehab center run by Frank Martin. For 10 points, name this story about a recovering alcoholic, by Raymond Carver.

ANSWER: **"Where I'm Calling From"**

<EG, Short Fiction>

19. This story describes a dream in which a butterfly "as large as a hundred worlds" travels from star to star, pollinating them with the light from its wings. An old legend about a he-goat and she-goat with human faces incessantly quarrelling as a shepherd leads them

across the sands is told by a monk in Mont St. Michel to the narrator of this story. Though he seals a carafe of water and a glass of milk before going to bed, the narrator of this story notices in the morning that they are (*) gone. The first of the several diary entries that make up this story records its narrator saluting a mysterious Brazilian ship sailing up the Seine. After seeing the title creature blur his image in the mirror, the narrator locks and sets fire to his house to destroy it, killing all his servants in the process. For 10 points, name this horror story about a vampire, sometimes considered the first manifestation of the syphilitic madness that killed its author Guy de Maupassant.

ANSWER: “Le **Horla**” [or “The **Horla**”]

<EG, Short Fiction>

20. A cat digs its claws into the shoulder of a character of this type as he repeats his birthday while registering his identity in an alley called Laguenesie, in Jean-Paul Sartre’s play *Les Jeux Sont Faits*. A different character of this type claims that she had just thrown double sixes in a game of backgammon against Genghis Khan, and ends up killing a different person than intended when she booby traps a car. In Act III of a 1938 play, three rows of chairs are set aside for characters of this type, one of whom quotes his son Joel’s observation that it takes starlight a (*) million years to travel to Earth, and another of whom expresses her approval of the hymn “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds.” To provide background material for his thriller *The Unseen*, Charles Condomine hires Madame Arcati to summon a character of this type, in Noel Coward’s *Blithe Spirit*. For 10 points, name this type of character that Emily Webb is when she decides to relive her twelfth birthday, in Thornton Wilder’s *Our Town*.

ANSWER: they are **dead** [or they’re **ghosts**; or **spirits** before mentioned]

<EG, Drama>