

It's Lit

Written by Auroni Gupta, Jason Cheng, and Eliza Grames

Packet 7

1. **One of this author's characters thinks: "By heaven, it hurts, it hurts!" just after seeing off a pregnant woman taking a train back to her husband's house. In a different story by her, that character addresses an apostrophe to the "Night of south winds--night of the few stars! / Still nodding night!," inflaming the passion of Mrs. Garoda, who sits next to him on a park bench. That character created by this author bears witness to a woman shattering a wine glass in her effort to stop Victor from singing (\*) "Ah! Si tu savais!" at a party thrown to celebrate her move into a "pigeon house." The character of Gouvernail appears in this author's stories "Athénaïse" and "A Respectable Woman," as well as in a novel whose protagonist befriends the old pianist Mademoiselle Reisz, whose words she recalls as she strips off her bathing suit and wades into the Gulf of Mexico. For 10 points, name this author who wrote about the married life of Edna Pointellier in *The Awakening*.**

ANSWER: Kate **Chopin**

<AG, Short Fiction>

2. **The opening essay of this collection recounts how the viceroy of Sardinia, terrified by a dream in which a plague ravages his island, turns away an infected ship stopping at its port of call. This book states that the mystical revelation that "WE KNOW IT IS WE WHO WERE SPEAKING" is generated from the "vocabulary of gesture of mime" in Balinese drama. An essay later added to this collection lists a "battleground in the mind of Montezuma" as a setting in a hypothetical play titled "The (\*) Conquest of Mexico." This book declares that if "a contemporary public does not understand *Oedipus Rex*," then "it is the fault of *Oedipus Rex* and not of the public" in its essay calling for "No More Masterpieces," in which the author proposes that theater should instead emphasize that humans are unfree and at the mercy of nature and fate. For 10 points, name this collection containing two manifestos for the "Theater of Cruelty," written by Antonin Artaud"**

ANSWER: *The **Theatre and its Double*** [or *Le **Théâtre et son Double***]

<AG, Drama>

3. **In one of this author's novels, a candlemaker struggling to pay off his debts hits his head and "linger[s] a few days with wandering mind" before he dies, a scene inspired by the fatal delirious fever this author's own father Allen suffered after riding in an open horse carriage for two days during winter. This author attained instant celebrity status after writing his debut novel, due to a lurid scene in which the exotic woman Fayaway strips naked and uses her clothing as a sail to propel herself and the narrator across a pond. The brutality of such scenes from one of this man's novels in which (\*) crew members of the *Neversink* are tortured for refusing to shave their beards prompted U.S. navy abolished the practice of flogging. A character in one of his novels uses the designations "Folio," "Octavo," and "Duodecimo" for successively smaller sizes as part of a quasi-scientific taxonomy presented in the chapter "Cetology." For 10 points, name this author of *The Confidence Man*, *White-Jacket*, and *Moby Dick*.**

ANSWER: Herman **Melville**

<AG, Long Fiction>

4. **This event is described as a whirlwind being reduced to its epicenter, as if being peeled like an onion. The historical basis for this event was separately explored by Alvaro Cepeda Samudio in his novel *La casa grande*. A man uses his superhuman reflexes to hurl a child toward a nearby street to save him from this event, despite earlier very stupidly yelling:**

**“Take the extra minute and stick it up your ass!” when its perpetrators extend their five minute advance warning. The corpses from this event are piled onto the newly installed (\*) train and dumped out at sea, alongside its sole survivor, who loses his sanity upon hearing the townspeople deny it, and locks himself with Melquiades’s old manuscripts. The government organizes a sham meeting with 3000 striking banana workers organized by Jose Arcadio Segundo as pretext to perpetrate this event. For 10 points, name this horrific event from *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. ANSWER: the massacre of the banana workers in *One Hundred Years of Solitude* [both parts needed before “One Hundred Years of Solitude” is read, after which just massacre is fine; accept descriptive synonyms for massacre]**  
<AG, Long Fiction>

**5. A 1922 sonnet declares that “at the crossing of two heart roads, there is no temple for” this deity. An image of a “rose garden” rising up from the arches of this deity’s eyebrows, from which petals one by one “drift down on the trembling of his mouth,” appears in a 1906 poem titled for this “Early” deity. A sonnet written the following year presents four negations to characterize this deity, imagining how a stone image of him would “not glisten like a wild (\*) beast’s fur” or “break forth from all its contours / like a star.” Each volume of the collection *New Poems* opens with a poem about this deity; the second of those poems follows its concluding statement that “there is no place / that does not see you,” with the dictum: “You must change your life.” For 10 points, name this Greek god whose “Archaic Torso” titles a poem by Rilke. ANSWER: Apollo**  
<AG, Poetry>

**6. A poem within this story is hopeful that its subject’s spirit “may / Rise, like the Phoenix from the flames, / When breaks the dawning of the day.” A character in this story lights his cigarette by tearing off and burning pieces of the information cards he is supposed to hand out. This story is set in a room heated inadequately by cinders raked with a piece of cardboard by the caretaker Old Jack. Soon after the characters in this story complain that there’s nothing to drink, a (\*) boy comes over from the Black Eagle with a dozen bottles of stout. In this story, Joe Hynes recites his poem about “The Death of Parnell” to thunderous applause at the title place, despite them having earlier suspected that he is a shill for the opponent of their man for Lord Mayor, Richard Tierney. For 10 points, name this story from *Dubliners* depicting a meeting of political canvassers, by James Joyce. ANSWER: “Ivy Day in the Committee Room”**  
<AG, Short Fiction>

**7. A woman in this play purposefully says the words “lie” and “life” in a drawn out manner so as to illustrate that “Life is just a long drawn out lie with a sniffling sigh at the end.” At the end of this play, she redefines life as the title period of time “in the electrical display of God the Father!” after contentedly listening to the roar of her son’s plane overhead. A character in this play suffers a fatal stroke from excitedly cheering on his son at the rowing race that concludes its (\*) eighth act. The film *Animal Crackers* mocks this play’s annoying gimmick of expressing characters’ thoughts through a burst of short phrases separated by ellipses. In this play, a woman conceives a child with the physician Ned Darrell after aborting her son with Sam Evans upon learning about his family’s hereditary insanity. For 10 points, name this Pulitzer-winning play about Nina Leeds, by Eugene O’Neill. ANSWER: Strange Interlude**  
<AG, Drama>

8. **The Penguin Classics cover of this novel features the silhouette of a city skyline dissolving into text from a passage declaring its title character to be “a gentleman on whom I built an absolute trust.” At a stoplight, a woman in this novel jumps out of her car and into a ditch to avoid being run over by her jealous husband. A character in this novel takes a baseball bat to the protagonist’s Mercedes-Benz to compel payment of a poker debt, most of which he then tosses off the top of a skyscraper. The title object of this novel is a (\*) scenario for the film *Caldofreddo* to which its author earns the copyright by mailing it to himself eight years in the future. The protagonist of this novel refuses to marry his girlfriend Renata and is bullied into friendship by the gangster Rinaldo Cantabile. For 10 points, name this novel about Charlie Citrine’s bond with the title stand-in for Delmore Schwartz, which won a Pulitzer for its author Saul Bellow.**

ANSWER: Humboldt’s Gift

<AG, Long Fiction>

9. **Matthew Dickman included elegies for the suicide of his older brother in a 2012 collection titled for this poet’s *Revolver*. A poem by this author ends with “Not a whisper,” as “The universe sleeps, / a paw on its huge ear / lousy with stars.” This author wrote that “A rhyme is a barrel of dynamite” and “a line is a fuse that’s lit,” “and by a stanza / a city / is blown to bits” in a poem framed as a lesson for tax collectors. Frank O’Hara lamented that “Now I am quietly waiting for / the catastrophe of my personality / to seem beautiful again, / and interesting, and modern,” in a poem titled for this author. With three less prominent (\*) co-signatories, this author promised to throw his countrymen “Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, etc... overboard from the Ship of Modernity,” in a manifesto published as *A Slap in the Face of Public Taste*. For 10 points, name this poet of *A Cloud in Trousers*, a Russian Futurist author whose poems are often collected alongside his play *The Bedbug*.**

ANSWER: Vladimir Mayakovsky [or Vladimir Vladimirovich Mayakovsky]

<JC, Poetry>

10. **This event took place after a man “was seen walking between rifles / down a long street, / coming upon the cold field / which still held stars of dawn,” according to a poem collected in *The Dream Below the Sun*. Irish biographer Ian Gibson won the Prix International de la Presse for his 1971 book about this event, which was banned for four years in the country where it happened. An inquiry into this event made by French novelist Marcelle Auclair bore fruit in 2015, when the radio station *Cadena Ser* published a report revealing that it was (\*) ordered by authorities. After this event, the subject of Antonio Machado’s “The crime was in Granada,” the heavily homoerotic “Sonnets of Dark Love” were excluded from the *Complete Works* of a poet whose grave has never been found. For 10 points, name this August 1936 event which claimed the life of a poet just two months after he published *The House of Bernarda Alba*.**

ANSWER: the assassination of Federico Garcia Lorca [or anything specifying the killing of Lorca]

<AG, Miscellaneous>

11. **This section of a larger work describes a man who nonchalantly says: “Ere thunder stops, here comes a rain” when a woman pours piss on his head. A character who interrupts this section is shut up with the quote “Whoso would not be warned by other men, / By him shall other men be corrected be,” from Ptolemy’s *Almagest*. The speaker of this section lies about having a dream in which she is killed and her bed is filled with blood. The speaker of this section tears three pages out of *Valerie and Theofraste*, a chronicle of (\*) deceitful women, punching a man who reads from it nightly, prompting him to retaliate with a blow that leaves her deaf in one ear. The speaker of this section labels the casket bearer Jenkin as the last of her two “bad husbands,” which follow her three good ones. For 10 points, name this section of *The***

*Canterbury Tales* that precedes a much shorter story in which a knight investigates what women most desire.

ANSWER: “The **Wife of Bath’s Prologue**” [prompt on *The Canterbury Tales*; do not accept or prompt on “The Wife of Bath’s Tale”]

<JC, Short Fiction>

12. Description acceptable. **This author asked, “who shall close my Lady’s eyes / And who shall fold her hands?” in the bitter poem “The Lust of the Eyes.” A different author observed that only “The blank grey / There where the pool is blind of the moon’s face” remained in a glass after this woman was gone. This woman appears “not as she is, but was when hope shone bright,” in the poem “In An Artist’s Studio,” written by her sister-in-law. This woman inspired the sonnet “Without Her” as well as a poem noting that “she had (\*) three lilies in her hand / And the stars in her hair were seven.” Seven years after this woman died of a laudanum overdose, her husband had her coffin exhumed so he could retrieve all his poems. This woman’s death inspired a poem that begins with her leaning “out / From the gold bar of heaven.” For 10 points, name this subject of “The Blessed Damozel,” whose author had her model for his painting *Beata Beatrix*.**

ANSWER: Elizabeth **Siddal** [or Elizabeth Eleanor **Siddal**; or Lizzy **Siddal**; accept **Elizabeth Rossetti**; accept **Lizzy Rossetti**; or Dante Gabriel **Rossetti’s wife**; prompt on just **Rossetti**]

<JC, Poetry>

13. **In a 1925 novel, a culture hero of this ethnicity heroically fails to flinch before a giant water-snake that emerges as he bathes in a river. The Weird Sisters gather and “spit their venom” in an adaptation of *Macbeth* depicting members of this ethnicity, a 1997 revival of which was staged for the premiere season of the reconstructed Globe Theater. A leader of this ethnicity murders, in turn, his son, wife, and mother, and gathers their blood to heal his warriors, in the best-known novel by Thomas (\*) Mofolo. Saul Bellow once stupidly challenged an interviewer to show him the Tolstoy of this ethnic group, whose culture is depicted in Welcome Msomi’s play *Umabatha*. An Anglican reverend of this ethnicity rescues his sister Gertrude from prostitution, and discovers that his son Absalom killed a white man, in Alan Paton’s *Cry, the Beloved Country*. For 10 points, name this ethnic group that produced an epic poem about their king Shaka.**

ANSWER: **Zulu** [or ama**Zulu**]

<AG, Miscellaneous>

14. **In an amusing poem, this author wrote that “Many sounds annoy me, but still the one I hate most / Is the barking of dogs: and their ear-splitting yelps.” This poet listed “goat-footed creatures puffing their cheeks” and “Fauns dancing with girls from a Bacchanalian choir” in a poem declaring that “So may the Poet’s sarcophagus be adorned, / With this book the writer has filled with the beauty of life.” In a poem whose speaker commands: “Tell me you (\*) stones, O speak, you towering palaces! / Streets, say a word,” this author declared that “without Love, / the world isn’t the world, and Rome can’t be Rome.” This author wrote a cycle of twenty-four sensual poems originally titled *Erotica*, that were inspired by the classical art he saw during his travels from 1786-88. For 10 points, name this German poet who wrote the “Venetian Epigrams” and the “Roman Elegies” during his pilgrimages to Italy, financed by the hefty proceeds from his novel *The Sorrows of Young Werther*.**

ANSWER: Johann Wolfgang von **Goethe**

<AG, Poetry>

15. **The protagonist of a novel by this author walks into a cathedral in Brussels where he hears a recording of a Baroque piece ruined by the noise of a vacuum cleaner. One of his**

novels ends with the main character clambering down a fire escape from a Mahler concert and joining a college party aboard a yacht. The main character of that novel by him is utterly devastated when his gay former literature professor Dr. Saito dies of cancer. This writer responded to *Kony 2012* with a series of Tweets that coined the term (\*) “white savior industrial complex.” The 2017 book *Blind Spot* collects several photographs by this author, who writes the “On Photography” column for *The New York Times*. After breaking up with his girlfriend Nadege, the psychiatric resident Julius wanders the streets of Manhattan in this author’s best-known novel. For 10 points, name this contemporary Nigerian-American novelist of *Open City*.

ANSWER: Teju Cole

<AG, Long Fiction>

16. In a novel titled for people who performed this action, a character who does the opposite of it boils the flesh off a dead fox so that his students could reassemble its skeleton, and eventually commits suicide by lying down on train tracks. The preface to *The Song of Bernadette* states that it was inspired by Franz Werfel’s stay in Lourdes after he and his wife had performed this action. The Villa Aurora in Los Angeles was a nexus for (\*) intellectuals who had performed this action, which a marriage of convenience to W.H. Auden helped Erika Mann undertake. The narrator’s uncle Ambros Adelwarth and his landlady’s husband Henry Selwyn are two of the title characters who have performed this action, profiled in a novel by W.G. Sebald. The genre of *exileliteratur* was produced by, for 10 points, German writers such as Thomas Mann and Bertolt Brecht who undertook what action in response to Nazi rule?

ANSWER: leaving Germany [or emigrating; or moving to America; or moving to a new country; prompt on migrating or moving or other answers that don’t indicate that it’s across international borders]

<AG, Long Fiction>

17. This author wrote that “I shall shoot you clean and fair / With meat and bread, a gourd of wine / A bunch of breasts from either arm, and that / Lone question - do you... know... / What it is all about?” in a poem depicting a wartime interaction between a “Civilian and Soldier.” The speaker of a poem by this author pleads “Madam... wouldn’t you rather / See for yourself?” after being asked several permutations of the all-caps question “ARE YOU DARK? OR VERY LIGHT?” by a potential landlady. This author wrote a volume of protest poems titled *A Big* (\*) *Airplane Crashed Into the Earth* during a nearly two-year stint of imprisonment during which he scribbled a memoir on toilet paper and was unable to attend the Accra production of his play in which a “Dance of the Lost Traveller” is performed for a photographer who assembles a picture book from images of a village in which Lakunle and Baroka vie for the hand of Sidi. For 10 points, name this Nigerian author of “Telephone Conversation” and plays such as *The Lion and the Jewel*.

ANSWER: Wole Soyinka [or Akinwande Oluwole Babatunde Soyinka]

<JC, Poetry>

18. A woman in this novel is afraid because there is “nothing to hide behind” after thinking a tent pole is watching her. The protagonist of this novel finds his friend’s dried mutton leg on the ground after fording Split Rock Creek. This novel describes grass as making a “tish-ah, tish-ah” sound as it closes behind a caravan of wagons steering towards the sun. The protagonist of this novel is given a pony in exchange for healing the hand of an Indian chief. Because she expects to die in labor on Christmas Eve, (\*) Beret empties the giant chest to use as a coffin in this novel. When he skis to get a minister for the dying Hans Olsa during a blizzard, this novel’s protagonist Per Hansa dies and doesn’t return to the settlement of Spring Creek. For 10 points, name this book about Norwegian immigrants to the Dakota territory, written by Ole Rolvaag.

ANSWER: ***Giants in the Earth***

<EG, Long Fiction>

19. In the fifth act of a play by this author, a character delivers a lengthy monologue in which he declares that: “I came into the world without my Knowledge, and I shall go out on’t without my Will.” In that play by this author, immediately after a court forces the protagonist to marry a woman, she recognizes the lobster birthmark on his arm and realizes that he is her son. The villainous Irishman Bégearss designs a box with a special compartment to hide a letter revealing a one night stand, in a play subtitled “The Other Tartuffe” that caps off a (\*) trilogy by this author. This author’s experiences inventing an escapement for pocket watches, teaching the harp to Louis XV’s daughters, and setting up a shell company to funnel arms to the American revolutionaries inspired his character who encourages his master to disguise himself as the soldier Lindor and the music teacher Alonzo to woo Dr. Bartholo’s ward Rosine. For 10 points, name this French comic playwright of *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Barber of Seville*.

ANSWER: Pierre **Beaumarchais** [or Pierre-Augustin Caron de **Beaumarchais**]

<AG, Drama>

20. A paragraph-long sentence in this essay describes a beige-ish “color which can be described only as hotel-color,” and ends by describing “galvanized pipe scaffolding” yelling “Hey Michelangelo!” This essay argues that America was a country “which had grown by the leap of one hero past another.” The author of this essay recounts his surprise when its subject told him in an interview that he had read “*The Deer Park* and... the others.” This article, which begins with a call to consider the (\*) Democratic National Convention without “losing ourselves in the housing projects of facts and issues,” compares Richard Nixon to Uriah Heep and “the stale bread” of marriage. For 10 points, name this Esquire magazine profile by Norman Mailer, which hailed JFK as the existential hero America needed following his nomination for the presidency.

ANSWER: “**Superman Comes to the Supermarket**”

<JC, Nonfiction>