

It's Lit

Written by Auroni Gupta, Jason Cheng, and Eliza Grames  
Tiebreakers

**TB1. Karolos Koun's 1959 production of this play at the Art Theater in Athens scandalously spliced in a Byzantine ecclesiastical chant during a mock prayer interrupted by the dismissal of the priest for chanting too long a list of names. This play's chorus recites a genealogy declaring that the title creatures are the offspring of Eros and Chaos. At the end of this play, the chorus chants "O Hymen, Hymenaeus!" in honor of the protagonist's wedding to the girl who manages (\*) Zeus's thunderbolts. In this play, two Athenians chew on a root that makes them sprout wings, and then lead an effort to build a city-state to obstruct access between humanity and the Olympian gods. For 10 points, name this play in which Pisthetaerus promotes the construction of the aerial haven Cloudcuckooland, the longest comedy by Aristophanes.**

ANSWER: *The **Birds*** [or ***Ornithes***]

<AG, Drama>

**TB2. A woman in this novel describes struggling against her father, brother, cousins, and uncles in a brief monologue she begins by declaring: "All my life I had to fight." The final section of this novel, which begins: "Dear God. Dear stars, dear trees, dear sky, dear peoples. Dear Everything," describes an upcoming family reunion at a Fourth of July barbecue. A character in this novel bellows "Hell no" when a mayor asks her to be his maid, prompting the mayor to slap her and her to knock him out in return, earning her a (\*) twelve year sentence as his maid anyway. In this novel, the son of a missionary scars his face in solidarity with his African wife Tashi's female circumcision. The protagonist of this novel begins writing to God after her father Alphonse sexually assaults her, and is initiated into sex by the lounge singer Shug Avery. For 10 points, name this novel about the upbringing of Celie in rural Georgia, by Alice Walker.**

ANSWER: *The **Color Purple***

<JC, Long Fiction>

**TB3. This critic opined that artists cannot be accused of superficiality when creating worlds because the superficiality is the world, in an essay comparing those worlds to systems of non-Euclidean geometry. This critic called *Finnegan's Wake* "merely beautiful nonsense" and ridiculed close reading as the "lemon-squeezer school of criticism" in a lecture delivered at the University of Minnesota, titled "The Frontiers of Criticism." This critic wrote the oft-misquoted line "Immature poets (\*) imitate; mature poets steal," in his essay on Philip Massinger. This author helped rejuvenate the popularity of poets like Cowley and Marvell in a 1921 essay. He posited that art can only provoke genuine emotion through an "objective correlative" in an essay about the artistic failure of a Shakespeare play. For 10 points, name this critic who collected his essay "Hamlet and His Problems" in *The Sacred Wood*.**

ANSWER: T.S. **Eliot** [or Thomas Stearns **Eliot**]

<AG, Nonfiction>