

Disease in Fiction

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Preamble: The unifying theme for this packet is “diseases as they are represented in fiction”. The majority of diseases asked about in this packet have a clearly-defined name or names; tossups where this is not the case will be marked as “description acceptable”. Please try to avoid attempting to describe your way into points during tossups without this marker.

1. In one film, an outbreak of this disease which leaves only six people alive ends with the leader of a group of seven cloaked figures declaring “Sic transit gloria mundi” and processing off-screen. The symptoms of this disease are described as “sharp pains, and sudden dizziness, and then profuse bleeding at the pores”, and it takes about half an hour to progress from onset to termination. A group of (*) “pale courtiers” become transfixed by this disease after its appearance is denounced as a “blasphemous mockery”. This disease manifests itself in an abbey with a series of seven coloured rooms, ending in a room decorated in black containing an ebony clock. For 10 points, name this disease which Prince Prospero is unable to avoid at his own masquerade ball, which titles an Edgar Allan Poe story.

ANSWER: The **Red Death**

2. This disease is inadvertently released at a Nebraska farmhouse by the bio researcher Gordon Lefferts. This disease’s effects are caused by the insertion of introns into the transcription factors of a certain type of RNA, leaving the victim unharmed if this RNA is not present. One strain of this disease is much slower-acting, causes skin lesions, and affects characters like St John [“sin-jin”] Allerdyce and Kwannon. A sudden cure for this disease allows the use of an army quarantined on the island of (*) Genosha. This disease is transported in a canister purported to contain the genetic material of the Summers family, and is sent to Mister Sinister by Stryfe. After this disease killed his sister Illyana, a cure for it is released by the self-sacrifice of Colossus. For 10 points, name this viroid which killed hundreds of mutants, including members of the X-Men, in a 1990s Marvel Comics storyline.

ANSWER: **Legacy** Virus

3. Characters such as Malakai Youmans and Dr Talia Kosar attempt to stop this disease in a prequel novel subtitled *Firestorm*. Patient Zero of this disease was Robert Franklin, who accidentally sneezed blood on airline pilot Douglas Hunsiker before dying. A doll owned by a girl named Nova transmits a strain of this disease which has mutated to cause the loss of speech. This disease was created by Gen-Sys Laboratories researcher Will Rodman in an attempt to cure his (*) father’s Alzheimer’s. This disease causes enhanced intelligence in characters such as Koba and the Andy Serkis-portrayed Caesar. For 10 points, name this disease which causes the collapse of human civilization in the *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* reboot film trilogy.

ANSWER: **Simian flu** [or **ALZ-113**; or **ALZ-112**]

4. In 2014, an outbreak of this disease prevented a Moldovan sports team from defending the 2010 World Cup they won in a three-day final against China. The first person to die from this disease was Chauncey Oldridge in 1379. A hump-backed healer who produced a cure for this disease is commemorated in a statue that can be opened with the word “Dissendium”; that healer is (*) Gunhilda of Gorsemoor.

Symptoms of this disease include a green-and-purple rash, and having sparks emerge from the nose whilst sneezing. Whilst still in office, Minister for Magic Eldritch Diggory died of this disease. For 10 points, name this disease which one might catch from Peruvian Vipertooths and Hungarian Horntails, similar to the Muggle disease chicken pox.

ANSWER: **Dragon pox**

5. Along with Cannibal’s Prion, this disease is contracted by eating the beating heart of Msirae Faythung. This disease becomes particularly harmful if one sleeps in a bed at least 72 hours after contracting it. The

Font of Renewal in Deepscorn Hollow is an alternative method to cure this disease. The initial symptom of this disease is a drain of five points in (*) fatigue. This disease can be cured with the help of Count Hassildor of Skingrad, who suffers from it. One possible way to contract this disease is to request it from Dark Brotherhood assassin Vicente Valtieri. For 10 points, name this disease, which if contracted in *The Elder Scrolls: Oblivion* causes a weakness to sunlight and the need to feed on blood.

ANSWER: **vampirism** [or becoming a **vampire**; accept **porphyric haemophilia** or **sanguinare vampiris**; do not accept “noxiphilic sanguivoria”]

6. The most-famous sufferer of this disease also claims to need to eat lots of fudge to stop himself going deaf. The first attempt to avoid the onset of the disease involves the purchase of three 99’s from an ice-cream salesman, before he designs a hat-based contraption to point portable fans at his head. The effects of this disease are first shown after another character kicks an accordion into pieces. This disease causes its only-depicted sufferer to stand naked on the roof of a car holding a flaming torch with the words “EAT ME” painted on his chest. This disease’s effects are triggered when the temperature reaches 88 degrees. For 15 points, name this disease which afflicts but is not named for Manny, a colleague of Bernard Black played by Bill Bailey on the sitcom *Black Books*.

ANSWER: **Dave**’s Syndrome [prompt on “**Blake**’s Syndrome” or “**Blaine**’s Syndrome” with “What is its actual name?”]

7. Vaporisation of a large reservoir via use of an orbital mirror possibly helped reduce the severity of this disease. One key symptom of the fourth stage of this disease is a series of black boils connected by a spiderweb pattern, and the seventh and final stage would often cause liquefaction. The *alazhi* [“a-la-zhee”] component of a more common medicine was enhanced by the spice *ryll kor* by the Vratix to produce a cure for this disease. Efforts to combat this disease led to a coup against the Xucphra [“zuck-frah”] Corporation on the (*) bacta-producing planet Thyferra. This disease was designed by General Evir Derricote and released into the galactic capital by Ysanne Isard prior to the Rebel conquest of Coruscant. For 10 points, name this plague affecting non-humans, from the Star Wars: X-Wing novels by Michael A. Stackpole, the centrepiece of a novel called after its “Trap”.

ANSWER: **Krytos** virus [or **Krytos** plague; accept *The Krytos Trap*]

8. Description acceptable. Some of these organisms are mutated after a wheelchair-bound scientist modifies X-ray scanners with beta-ray emitters. Infection of these organisms with the *Wolbachia* bacterium causes them all to change into females and halt their reproduction. One character can only wear limited amounts of clothing, due to having to breathe through their skin after infection with these organisms. The Navajo scientist (*) Code Talker bioengineered these organisms. Eli infects an island with these organisms after he escapes from Mother Base with Sahelanthropus. These organisms are used to kill Kikongo speakers in central Africa by Skull Face, until he is stopped by the Diamond Dogs and Venom Snake. For 10 points, name this bioweapon used by XOF in *Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain*, which gives the sniper Quiet her nickname.

ANSWER: **vocal cord parasites** [or descriptions indicating that they are **parasites** which affect the ability to speak a specific language; accept descriptions such as “the **parasites** from *Metal Gear Solid V*, *MGSV*, or *The Phantom Pain*” before mentioned; accept “the **one that covers**”; prompt on “**parasites**” alone with “What part of the body do they infect?”; do NOT accept any references to bacteria or viruses since these are clearly parasites]

9. The cure for this disease is described as a combination of olive oil, white beeswax, the green bark of elder twigs and the resin of pine, although other claimed methods of alleviating it include limes, scalding-hot baths, and a vinegar wash. The crew of the *Shy Maid* are attacked by sufferers of this disease, which leads to the infection of Jon Connington, the lord of (*) Griffin’s Roost. Sufferers of this disease, which is also known as “Prince Garin’s curse”, are generally ostracised and live in the ruins of Old Valyria. The only known survivors of this disease are Shireen Baratheon and Ser Jorah Mormont. For 10 points, name this disfiguring skin disease in *Game of Thrones*.

ANSWER: **Greyscale** [or “**Prince Garin’s curse**” before mentioned]

10. *Description acceptable.* According to a real-life 2000 paper by Sghirlanzoni and Carella titled for this fictional disease, Gerstmann-Scheinker disease should be considered a differential diagnosis for it. One character prepares a brew of monkshood to protect her family against this disease, which is inadvertently spread through sales of her coloured candy animals. Many labels are made to ward off the effects of this disease by a silversmith who (*) forgets the name for an anvil. A Guajiro Indian prince and princess fled their homeland in fear of this disease. The first patient to exhibit this disease is the earth-eating orphan Rebeca, who arrives with a letter for José Arcadio Buendía. For 10 points, name this plague which sweeps Macondo in Chapter 3 of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and prevents everyone from sleeping.

ANSWER: the insomnia plague from *One Hundred Years of Solitude* [accept similar descriptions, prompt on “the plague from 100YOS” with “What is its main symptom?”]

11. Among the first victims of this disease are a Vatican mechanic who becomes violently ill whilst respraying the Pope’s Cadillac, and an entertainer named “Mandroyde the Dancing Robot”. One sufferer of this disease is seen homeless and begging for donations outside a branch of Caviar Express. A proposed “body-cream” cure for this disease contains [read slowly] cream, potassium, nitrates, potassium nitrates, and nitrate of potassiate nitrate, but it only lasts for a quarter of an hour. One definite upside of this disease is that it confers the ability to fly. This disease is reported on by Pam Bachelor, played by Olivia Colman, who introduces its sufferer Dr Phillip Lavender. For 15 points, name this disease attacking the central nervous system, which fools it into calcifying the body into a pile of rocks, as seen on the BBC show *Look Around You*.

ANSWER: geodermic granititis [or “cobbles”]

12. *Description acceptable.* A doctor attempting to stop this disease adopts the codename FS-2080 in honour of the philosophy of Fereidoun M. Esfandiary. A facial rash initially thought to have been caused by this disease is revealed to have been caused by the spirit gum that Jonathan Ferris used to adopt the disguise of a murdered doctor. This disease was introduced in a video which features a plaque stating “In this place, on this date, the world was changed forever”. This disease was stored in a (*) water-soluble bag in a cistern near the tomb of Enrico Dandolo. This disease was designed by Bertrand Zobrist to cause sterility in one-third of the human population, and the World Health Organisation trick Robert Langdon into helping them find it. For 10 points, name this disease from the sixth novel written by Dan Brown.

ANSWER: the disease from Inferno [it has no official name, so accept anything indicating it’s a sterility plague created by Dan Brown or investigated by Robert Langdon; accept the “vector virus” if you hate science]

13. In one novel, astronauts Adam Treloar and Dylan Reed steal a sample of this disease and take it aboard the space shuttle *Discovery*, in an attempt to mutate this disease into a much stronger form in microgravity. That novel by Philip Shelby featuring a “super” version of this disease is the second in the *Covert One* series posthumously published under Robert Ludlum’s name, and is titled *The Cassandra Compact*. In another novel, the protagonist uses the Dozmary mine to infiltrate a computer facility in Port Tallon, Cornwall, where this disease has been delivered via (*) SCORPIA and the assassin Yassen Gregorovich. That novel’s antagonist plans to use this disease to kill thousands of schoolchildren in an elaborate “April Fool’s joke” triggered from the Science Museum, in revenge for being bullied as a child. For 10 points, name this real-life disease inserted by Herod Sayle into his Stormbreaker laptops, in the first *Alex Rider* novel.

ANSWER: smallpox [or super-smallpox]

14. Captain Regan Francis quickly amputated Private Eugene Ellis’s right arm to prevent infection with this organism, although it is unclear whether that attempt was successful. Stage three of infection with this organism, which manifests itself after a year, causes blindness and the development of a primitive form of echolocation. An issue of the *Texas Herald* claims that a disease caused by this organism was spread to (*) Austin by infected crops from South America. Enemies affected with this organism are divided into Runner, Stalker, Clicker and Bloater classes, who pursue Joel and Ellie across the United States. For 10

points, name this real-life genus of ascomycete fungus, which causes a namesake “Brain Infection” that devastates mankind in the Naughty Dog video game *The Last of Us*.

ANSWER: **Cordyceps**

15. **One character suffering from this disease declares “every movement has a meaning!”, when hitting a companion over the head whilst dancing. That character recovering from this disease thinks that they would like to eat a roast pig, six pineapples and a pound of macadamia nuts. Some symptoms of this disease include a voracious appetite and being listless and cranky, leaving another character wondering if it’s actually possible to diagnose it. A temperature of 101 degrees is *not* indicative of this disease, since that is the temperature of microwaved lasagne. The medicine necessary to cure this disease is taken just prior to its sufferer’s scheduled appearance on *Silly Animal Stunts*. For 10 points, name this disease which causes Garfield to dance the (*) hula every time he hears words connected to the 50th state.**

ANSWER: **Hawaiian** Cat **Flu** [do not accept or prompt on “Alaskan Cat Flu”]

16. **A character who won’t eat tilder meat if there is a letter “r” in the month wears a muzzle to protect from a disease which normally affects these objects. The magical powder chine, collected from Riverrise, is the only cure for the disease affecting these objects, although Orbix Xaxis and the Guardians of Night believe that a lightning strike on Midnight’s Spike will cure these objects. The Librarians Academic believe that a cure for these objects can be found in the (*) Deepwoods. The disease affecting these objects is revealed to have been caused by the Gloamglozer upon his banishment from Sanctaphrax, which produces these objects in a namesake “Gardens”. For 10 points, name these objects used to power sky ships, which lose their buoyancy in a namesake “sickness”, in Paul Stewart’s *The Edge Chronicles*.**

ANSWER: **stones** [or flight-**rocks**; accept “**stone**-sickness”; prompt on “New **Sanctaphrax**” before mentioned with “What is it made from?”]

17. **Major Manchek translates the number 87 into binary to telephone the authorities about this disease. In an epilogue, this disease is revealed to be responsible for the failure of the Zond 19 and Andros V [“five”] missions. The seventh version of Project Scoop is responsible for spreading this disease. The crying baby Jamie Ritter and the Sterno-addicted Peter Jackson survive this disease due to having abnormal blood pH, although it kills the other residents of Piedmont, (*) Arizona. The “Wildfire” protocol for this disease includes the idea that unmarried men make the most unbiased decisions, named the “Odd-Man Hypothesis”. Jeremy Stone and Mark Hall realise that a nuclear weapon would actually benefit this disease and cause it to form an indestructible biofilm. For 10 points, name this frequently-mutating extraterrestrial disease which titles a thriller novel by Michael Crichton.**

ANSWER: **Andromeda** [accept *The **Andromeda** Strain*]

18. **According to one dossier, a disease affecting this species can become resistant to cipoxidin and alburicin. A cure for a disease affecting this species is the goal of a genetic engineering programme funded by the Illuminated Primacy. That non-communicable, non-hereditary disease affecting this species causes oxygen transfer proteins to form incorrectly, leading them to eventually suffocate. A disease that affects this species is caused by long-term exposure to the (*) humid climate of planets like Kahje, since it differs significantly from their dying desert homeworld of Rakhana, from which they were rescued by the hanar. For 10 points, name this species afflicted by Kepral’s Syndrome, exemplified by Thane Krios, the most deadly assassin in the galaxy of *Mass Effect*.**

ANSWER: **Drell**

19. *Description acceptable.* **One case of what is believed to be the late onset of this disease turns out to be botulism poisoning contracted from a dented can of tomato soup. A character appears to gain immunity from this disease after a professor creates a chemical to kill his daughter’s unborn clone fetus. One mystical explanation for this disease, believed by the Setauket Ring, is that it struck the moment one character removes the Amulet of Helene from the nation of Jordan. The most likely explanation for this disease, promoted by (*) IDF Lieutenant General Alter, suggests that the Culper Ring created a chemical agent**

intended to prevent Chinese women from conceiving male children, which ultimately backfired. For 10 points, name this mysterious disease that suddenly kills everyone male except Yorick Brown and his monkey Ampersand, in a Vertigo comic series by Brian K. Vaughan.

ANSWER: the plague that kills all living mammals with a Y chromosome in *Y: The Last Man* [or anything indicating death occurring to those possessing a Y chromosome; accept anything indicating the plague from Y: The Last Man; prompt liberally on descriptions such as “the disease that Yorick is immune to” with “Who is vulnerable to this disease?”]

20. **A particularly virulent strain of this disease is one possible explanation as to why nobody remembers how Angelus Peel’s knees ended up backwards or Lucas Bargestworthy lost half his teeth; that is this disease’s “cerebrumous” type. According to one source, the only remedy for this disease is to bind the liver of a toad about one’s throat whilst standing naked at the full moon in a barrel of eels’ eyes. This disease can render one mute should it spread to the (*) uvula.** A family ghoul is transfigured to mimic this disease to explain one student’s absence from school. For 10 points, name this disease of purple pustules, which a healer in a portrait at St Mungo’s Hospital mistakenly diagnoses from Ron Weasley’s freckles.

ANSWER: Spattergroit