

## STORY

1. Ken Liu wrote the story “Single-Bit Error” in response to a work by this author, where Janice Reilly, who is given legs during an angelic visit, goes on a pilgrimage with the minister Ethan Mead. A story by this author ends with the narrator saying, “free will is an illusion... sending this warning won't alter those proportions. So why did I do it? Because I had no choice” and describes the Predictor, a button that flashes a second before you press it. In a story by this author of “Hell is the Absence of God,” scientists theorize that all of a robot's (\*) memories are engraved on sheets of gold foil in their skulls, leading one to operate on himself and discover flowing currents of argon power him. This author of the story “What's Expected of Us” created the linguist Dr. Louise Banks, who uses Fermat's Principle of Least Time to decode Heptapod B in a work that was adapted into the film *Arrival*. For 10 points, name this author of *Exhalation* and the novella *Story of Your Life*.

ANSWER: Ted Chiang

2. After a fight, this character goes to the “most anonymous-looking” bathroom stall and cries convulsively for five minutes before pulling a small pea-green clothbound book out of her handbag. In a letter to her boyfriend, this character says, “I think I'm beginning to look down on all poets except Sappho. I've been reading her like mad and no vulgar remarks, please.” In one story, this character's date describes a critical essay he wrote on (\*) Flaubert and “why he was so neurotically attracted to the *mot juste* [moh jooste]” before this character tells him that “You're talking like a section man.” This character explains the plot of *The Way of The Pilgrim* to her boyfriend Lane Coutell, who eats frog legs as she recites, “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me” and faints. For 10 points, name this character who titles a story often paired with the novella *Zooey*, created by J.D. Salinger.

ANSWER: Franny Glass [prompt on Glass; accept Franny and *Zooey*]

3. In a story by this author, the narrator asks, “this girl with skin of cream on its way to spoiling and hair the color of flax, what did her insides look like?” after she is told about a man who ate cornmeal and died with his insides yellow. In a story by this author of “Biography of a Dress,” the narrator's mom tells them about a creature “who can turn into anything” before saying, “A jablesse always tries to look like a beautiful woman.” That story appears in a collection by this author that includes “Wingless” and “What Have I Been Doing Lately.” The narrator of a story by this author tells a child, “this is (\*) how to smile to someone you like completely” and accuses her of singing benna in Sunday school. This author wrote a story whose narrator calls her daughter “the slut you are so bent on becoming” and asks, “are you really going to be the kind of woman who the baker won't let near the bread?” For 10 points, name this Antiguan author of *At the Bottom of the River* and “Girl.”

ANSWER: Jamaica Kincaid

4. The narrator of this story thinks, “That douche bag!” while describing how a woman had been made “more of a slut than she had ever been,” and laments how another character went from being a gay professor to “a semihuman, semisimian.” In this story, the narrator says that another character, whom he calls “God as Daddy the Deranged,” has won as “I am a great soft jelly thing...I leave a moist trail when I move.” This story's headers include a series of encrypted (\*) tapes that serve as talk fields for a character who “in a pillar of stainless steel bearing bright neon lettering,” says, “Hate. Let me tell you how much I've come to hate you since I began to live.” This story is narrated by Ted, who wanders across a barren landscape with Benny, Ellen, Nimdok, and Gorrister, the last of which swings bloodless and hanged at this story's beginning. For 10 points, name this story about the supercomputer AM by Harlan Ellison.

ANSWER: “I Have No Mouth, and I Must Scream”

5. In one work, an author described how after receiving some of these animals for the first time, “I have been looking at them even since, from one station or another, and always with the same awe as on that first

occasion” and tells her mother, “They’ll eat Startena like the rest of them.” At the beginning of that essay, an author recalled how when she was five, Pathé News sent a photographer to take a picture of one of these animals she had trained to walk backward. Mrs. (\*) Shortley notices Astor and Sulk while being pursued by one of these animals at the beginning of “The Displaced Person.” A character walks out of a forest holding a shirt with these animals on it before another character shouts, “You’ve got good blood! I know you wouldn’t shoot a lady!” in “A Good Man is Hard to Find.” For 10 points, name this type of animal, which Flannery O’Connor said the peacock was the “King of” in a 1961 essay.

ANSWER: birds [accept swans, parrots, peafowl, chickens, or peacocks before mention; accept “Living with a Peacock” or “The King of the Birds”]

6. In one story by this author, the narrator shoots six thousand dogs and designs the community of Shady Oaks to look like a “titanic reproduction” of a jigsaw of the Mona Lisa. The narrator of that story clarifies, “(it was Galveston, Texas),” after announcing, “I Bought A Little City.” In a story by this author, a sculptor shouts, “Mr. President!...I thought we were friends!” as he sees his work *Season’s Greetings* destroyed. That character, (\*) Peterson, goes on the show *Who Am I?*, where he looks at the camera and says, “My mother was a royal virgin...my father” the title “shower of gold.” Children beg the narrator of a story by this author to “please make love with Helen, we require an assertion of value, we are frightened” after a series of deaths in the title location, including a puppy, orange trees, and the Korean orphan Kim. For 10 points, name this author of “The School” and the collection *Sixty Stories*.

ANSWER: Donald Barthelme

7. *Description acceptable.* One story of this type describes how “She would always sleep with her husband and with another man in the course of the same day, and then the rest of the day, for whatever was left to her of that day, she would exploit by incanting, ‘French film, French film.’” In addition to “Housewife” by Amy Hempel, a story of this type concludes, “I would leave this earth and these stars...I would take nothing with me from here, because I’ve looked into what’s coming, and I don’t need anything from here” and is by László Krasznahorkai [lazz-low kraz-nah-whore-kye]. The narrator of a story of this type, (\*) “Widow’s First Year,” asserts, “I kept myself alive.” In a letter, Arthur C. Clarke described how the author of a story of this type was “supposed to have won a \$10 bet [for it] from his fellow writers” before saying, “I still can’t think of it without crying.” For 10 points, name this type of story, exemplified by one often attributed to Ernest Hemingway, “For sale: baby shoes, never worn.”

ANSWER: micro-fiction [or flash fiction; accept descriptions like they’re really short or one sentence long]

8. In a story set in this country, the middle-aged woman Granny is told, “There is always a road when you get into the mountain,” and responds, “And there is a Toyota wherever there is a road.” In that story set in this country, a character is fired from a school after developing an unhealthy relationship with a little boy she leaves socks for. In addition to “Extra,” collected in its author’s *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*, a story set in this country follows a man who thinks, “If only I could kill all the bastards!” and gives over 800 people (\*) hepatitis. That character from this country has tea spilled on his shoes and is told, “You’re a saboteur, you know?” A story set in this country is titled for a character who is so worried about drawing a circle that he doesn’t sign a confession and deludes himself into thinking he wins fights with “spiritual victories.” For 10 points, name this birth country of Yiyun Li, Ha Jin, and the author of “The True Story of Ah Q,” Lu Xun.

ANSWER: China [or People’s Republic of China or PRC or Zhongguo or Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo; do not accept or prompt on “Republic of China”]

9. In an interview regarding this story, an author said, “I desperately tried to recall my memory only to find that I haven’t read [this story], but now I’m in a situation where even I can’t believe my own memory” after that author, Shin Kyung-Sook, was accused of plagiarizing a Korean translation of this story with her story “Legend.” While having sex, two characters in this story feel like the words “The Last Time” are written in

**brushstrokes across their bodies. In this story, one character places his (\*) sword on a mat to tell his wife that “the wife of a soldier should know and resolutely accept that her husband's death might come at any moment.”** That wife in this story asks permission to accompany her husband when he announces, “Tonight I will cut my stomach” the night before he must fight in the aftermath of the Ni Ni Roku Incident. For 10 points, name this story about Reiko and her husband Lieutenant Shinji Takeyama’s suicide before a coup d’état, by Yukio Mishima.

ANSWER: “Patriotism” [or “Yūkoku”]

**10. In a story by this author, Annie recounts a dream where Bart the Manager, in an ill-fitting tuxedo, picks her lock and compels her to don odd lingerie [lawn-jer-ay]. Another story by this author begins as the narrator recalls how a man told her, “How can so much grace be contained in one small package?” and asks, “Oops. Had he said small package? And just stood there?” In a story by this author, a man gasps, ““Babylon has been shouted”” after having sex in the title (\*) “Floating Object Room.”** The narrator of a story by this author intersperses her narration with ballet terms like *pas de deux* before a boy who is called Beloved Only, Kyle Boot, saves her from a kidnapping. In a story by this author, the narrator buries the hand of a boy who threatened Fred Moore with a butter knife before the Vietnam War veteran Sam hacks him to death in the title war reenactment center. For 10 points, name this author of the story “Victory Lap” and the collection *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline*.

ANSWER: George Saunders

**11. A character in this story says, “It made me feel older than grandchildren would” after noticing her daughter use a touch that “remind[s] him that you are grateful, that you realize he is doing for your sake something that bores him” with her boyfriend Don. That woman is irritated by an article she reads reminding her that “fame must be striven for, then apologized for.” A man in this story struggles to remember the line (\*) “shoreless seas” while reciting Joachim Miller’s poem “Columbus,” and the narrator’s daughters Judith and Nichola abandon her by going “incommunicado.”** The narrator of this story uses the words “phony temple” to describe to her dying father her visit to a planetarium before asking him about the title entities, including one who was a cupbearer. For 10 points, name this story where Janet’s father tells her about Ganymede, Io, and Europa, written by Alice Munro.

ANSWER: “The Moons of Jupiter”

**12. In a story by this author, the narrator describes how her husband hates his hearing aid and continually calls the title question in different rooms in the house, saying, “I worry about you when you don’t answer.” That story ends with the narrator breaking her neck, dying in an instant while her husband calls, “Hello? Hello? Where are you?”** The narrator of a story by this author is told, “This place you are now—inside your daddy's house—is nothing but a cardboard box I can knock down any time” by a boy with shaggy black hair whose (\*) car has writing on it like “DONE BY CRAZY WOMAN DRIVER” and “MAN THE FLYING SAUCERS.” After listening to the song “It’s All Over Now, Baby Blue,” this author was inspired to write a story she dedicated to Bob Dylan about Connie, who is manipulated and abducted by Ellie and Arnold Friend. For 10 points, name this author of the story “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”

ANSWER: Joyce Carol Oates (the first story is “Where Are You?”)

**13. Description acceptable. A story centered around a character who undergoes this process begins, “He knows his wife will never be able to tell lies again” and ends with a description of how the woman who undergoes this process “beats her body against the car door handle – a slapping sound on the glass.” It’s not marriage, but in addition to that story by Dorothy Tse, a woman undergoes this process at the end of a story that begins, “My father lost me to The Beast at cards.” That woman says, “My earrings turned back to water and trickled down my shoulders” and thinks ““He will lick the (\*) skin off me!”” as she undergoes this process.** After undergoing this process, one character realizes that milk no longer tastes nice to him and is severely wounded after his father throws apples into his back. For 10 points, name this process, described in the stories “Woman Fish” and “The Tiger’s Bride,” which Gregor Samsa undergoes in *The Metamorphosis*.

ANSWER: **turning into an animal** [prompt on changing or transformation or metamorphosis with “into what?”; accept equivalents like **transforming into an animal**; accept **turning into a fish, tiger, monstrous vermin**, or other reasonable approximations]

14. In a story by this author, Sam refuses to ride dolphins, saying, “If [they] tasted good...we wouldn’t even know about their language.” In that story, Kit is told, “As a feminist, you mustn’t blame the other woman,” and replies, “As a feminist, I request that you no longer speak to me” after discussing her collapsing marriage with the supposed space alien Rafe. This author of “Paper Losses” created a character who tells a married man “It is fit for neither beast nor vegetable” and realizes that being a mistress essentially “means to put your shoes on the wrong feet.” A story by this author takes place in the (\*) Peed Onk and begins with The Mother asking, “Is that apostrophe 's' or 's' apostrophe?” after The Baby is diagnosed with a Wilms’ tumor. For 10 points, name this author of “How to Be an Other Woman,” who included “People Like That Are The Only People Here” in the collection *Birds in America* and wrote the novel *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?*.

ANSWER: Lorrie **Moore**

15. In one story narrated by this character, he is taken by the Vice-President to see “the birthplace of our nation” and cheats on his girlfriend Magda, saying their relationship “wasn’t the sun, the moon, and the stars, but it wasn’t bullshit, either.” In another story, this character looks into the eyes of a child who “seems preternaturally sapient...M.I.T.-bound” before telling his friend, “he so doesn’t look like you.” In a series of instructions, this character says to clear “government cheese from the refrigerator” and change your behavior based on whether a (\*) girl is from Park Hill or the Terrace. In addition to “How to Date a Brown girl, Black girl, White girl, or Halfie,” this character describes how he was caught with fifty sucias while not dating an open-minded blanquita in “The Cheater’s Guide to Love.” For 10 points, name this character who narrates the collection *This Is How You Lose Her* and the novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, created by Junot Díaz.

ANSWER: **Yunior** de Las Casas [or Yunior de **Las Casas**; prompt on You by asking, “who is the actual character speaking?”]

16. A character in this story does not remember poems he memorized in his youth, like “All my pretty ones? Did you say all? O hell-kite! All?” or his first lover, Sherry, who called his “unit” Mr. Mole. That character in this story thinks, “If there’d been a bubble coming out of his mouth, it would have said, ‘Hubba hubba’” after looking up to the ceiling and noticing an overly suggestive depiction of Zeus and Europa. The protagonist of this story remembers not “having his ribs kicked in by three policemen at an anti-war rally” but only “Heat. A (\*) baseball field” as he recounts how Coyle’s cousin says two words he chants over and over, “they is.” This story begins with a “bright boy” in line at the bank before he bursts out laughing at the word “capiche” and provokes two bank robbers. For 10 points, name this story titled for an object that “smashed [Anders’] skull...and exited behind his right ear,” by Tobias Wolff.

ANSWER: “**Bullet in the Brain**”

17. In a story by this author, the narrator dreams that she goes to a restaurant that serves only soup before her girlfriend pulls a spoon out of a bowl and there is a “ghostly hand twirled” around the handle. That story, which centers around the narrator’s relationship with Petra in a world where women slowly fade, is titled “Real Women Have Bodies.” A work by this author instructs the reader to shake a can of pennies and “force a listener to reveal a devastating secret, then open the nearest window to the street and scream it as loudly as you are able.” This author described her experience with (\*) domestic abuse in a memoir that evokes the title location as “Time Travel” and “Memory Palace.” In a work by this author, a woman receives the title operation after childbirth and dies after her husband unties the ribbon keeping her neck on her head. For 10 points, name this author of the memoir *In the Dream House*, who included the novella *The Husband Stitch* in *Her Body and Other Parties*.

ANSWER: Carmen Maria **Machado**

18. A story titled for this object concludes by describing “the violent anguish that takes hold of all us young mammoths when we realize that now is when life begins, and yet it is clear that what we desire we shall never have.” That story titled for this object features a woman who tells the narrator, “Nobody can do anything” named Diana, who along with a group of naked women crashes a parade for Consumer Thanksgiving Day. In addition to a story titled for the “daughters” of this object, a man sings “Every shiny fish is floating, floating; and every dark fish is at the bottom, at the bottom of the sea” while a woman with long (\*) silvery arms plays the harp in another story about this object. In one story, this object has a substance composed chiefly of “vegetal juices, tadpoles... mineral salts [and] combustion residue” called its “milk” and is visited by Captain Vhd Vhd [vid vid] and Qfwfq [kuh-foof-kuh]. For 10 points, “The Distance of” what object titles a story by Italo Calvino? ANSWER: the moon [accept “The Daughters of the Moon” or “The Distance of the Moon”]

19. In a story by this author, the narrator says, “I feel *luminous*” and plays chess with her father, who tells her about when his lieutenant took his gun. The narrator is reprimanded for checking if Anita was wearing a bra in this author’s story “War Stories,” found in a collection that opens with “The Future Looks Good.” The protagonist of a story by this author works at Mama Said Hair Emporium and loses her empathy, joy, and happiness. In a story by this author, set in a world where children are woven out of different materials and become flesh after a year, Ogechi hears a blessing that asks, “Who will (\*) greet you at home?” A story by this author ends with Nneoma holding her girlfriend Kioni and understanding the burden she holds as a Mathematician, who calculate and remove grief from others. In that story, Francisco Furcal discovers an equation that explains the universe. For 10 points, name this Nigerian author of the collection *What It Means When a Man Falls from the Sky*. ANSWER: Lesley Nneka Arimah (the first story is “Skinned”)

20. *Description acceptable.* In this work, a man describes how “The world I am now in is one of diseased nerves, lucid as ice” and says, “I have seen, loved, and understood more than others.” This work’s narrator describes how he, “as Kleist and Racine had done, thought of some company, for instance, a lover or friend, but, having soon grown confident” decided to take a certain action alone. In this work’s postscript, its narrator tells this work’s addressee that “I felt how old is this desire to make a god of oneself” after reminding him of “those days of twenty years ago when we discussed (\*) “Empedocles on Etna” - under the linden trees.” The narrator of this work says he does “not regard [a certain action] as a sin, as Westerners do” and concludes that “[u]se of a drug seemed to be perhaps the most satisfactory way.” For 10 points, name this document often titled “A Note to a Certain Old Friend,” written before the death of the author of “Cogwheels” and “In A Grove.”

ANSWER: Ryunosuke Akutagawa’s suicide note [or Akutagawa Ryunosuke’s suicide note; accept “A Note to a Certain Old Friend” before mention]