

TREE OF CLUES: a packet for popheads

Written by Kevin Kodama

1. This song talks about French perfume before moving into a brief electric guitar solo. For ten points each,

[A] Name this bubblegum pop song that features bouncing synths while noting how its title figures "call my name". A lot of liquid is sucked through a straw in the intro to this song.

ANSWER: "**Hillside Boys**" <Hard>

[B] "Hillside Boys" is by this German artist, who released her debut album *Clarity* in 2019. This singer belts "Even if I'll end up in shatters / Baby it doesn't matter" in her song "Heart to Break".

ANSWER: **Kim Petras** <Easy>

[C] Many Kim Petras songs feature this euphoric vocal motif, sometimes more hidden than others. Some fans traced the origin of this motif to Ariana Grande's "Touch It", but that was probably just a coincidence.

ANSWER: **woo-ah!** <Mid>

2. Name these songs where pop stars express their desire for people to buy them things. For ten points each,

[A] Marina Diamandis asks if you'd "buy a big diamond ring for me" in this hit from Electra Heart. This song's signature pulsing synth bass comes in after the lyrics "you can count on me to misbehave".

ANSWER: "**Primadonna**" <Easy>

[B] Carly Rae Jepsen describes herself as "rich, but I always want him to pay" in a remix of this song. In this song, Carly boasts that she's "pretty but has never sent a pic" and "always sells out the show".

ANSWER: "**Lalala**" <Hard>

[C] The singer of this track asks the listener to "give me all of your attention" and "give me summer in the Hamptons". Paris Hilton makes a surprise appearance in the music video for this song, which demands "I want all my clothes designer".

ANSWER: "**I Don't Want It At All**" (by Kim Petras) <Mid>

3. The video for this track opens with a series of microaggressions, during which the singer's date plucks food off of her face. For ten points each,

[A] Name this nü metal-influenced track that features melodic laughing over menacing guitar riffs. This song ends with repeated screams of "LIKE THE FIRST TIME PLEASE!".

ANSWER: "**STFU!**" <Hard>

[B] STFU! is by this Japanese-British artist, who claims to be "happiest when I'm with you online" in "Cyber Stockholm Syndrome".

ANSWER: Rina **Sawayama** <Mid>

[C] This artist's nü metal-influenced tracks include "I Disagree" and the Grimes feature "Play Destroy". She rose to fame on the success of her reggae-influenced song "Lowlife" as well as uncanny YouTube videos in which she adopts a robotic personality.

ANSWER: **Poppy** (accept **That Poppy**) <Easy>

4. For ten points each, answer some questions about the hype around *Peppa Pig: My First Album*, which (to be clear) is an album made by a kids TV show.

[A] A watershed moment for *Peppa Pig: My First Album* was when this YouTube music critic uploaded a video about it. This critic, who calls himself "the Internet's busiest music nerd", ruthlessly gave Chance the Rapper's album *The Big Day* a 0 on his signature 10 point scale.

ANSWER: Anthony **Fantano** (accept **theneedledrop**) <Easy>

[B] Redditor u/puberty1 joked that *Peppa Pig: My First Album* brigading would lead oblivious parents to show their kids this song due to it having a similar title as "Expert Daddy Pig". This Slayyyter track features sexual moaning as well as the lyrics "I've been fucking models" and "I've been popping bottles".

ANSWER: "**Daddy AF**" <Hard>

[C] Redditor u/frogaranaman was more optimistic about the craze, and predicted it would turn children into stans for this k-pop group. This girl group's debut EP [+ +] contains the songs "Hi High" and "favOrite", and it was released after a two-year long process in which this group was slowly brought together.

ANSWER: **LOOIIA** <Mid>

5. This track reflects on how fame has affected its artist's relationships and begins "No sleeper seats, that's a mattress". For ten points each,

[A] Name this dream-like Frank Ocean track that laments "I guess I can't state my feelings too soon".

ANSWER: "**In My Room**" <Hard>

[B] This Carly Rae Jepsen album contains the similarly titled "Want You In My Room", which uses rising synths to accompany the line "I'll press you to the pages of my heart". This album also includes "Julien" and "Too Much".

ANSWER: **Dedicated** <Easy>

[C] This artist probably does not want you in her room, seeing as it is underwater on the cover of her album *Titanic Rising*. A slide guitar is the highlight of this artist's love song "Andromeda".

ANSWER: **Weyes Blood** (accept Natalie **Mering**) <Mid>

6. A track by this artist featuring Rico Nasty repeats the line "Hair grow long like Chia" throughout. For ten points each,

[A] Name this artist who charted for the first time with her 2019 track "Juicy". This artist's deluxe edition of her debut album *Amala* introduced the track "Tia Tamera".

ANSWER: **Doja Cat** <Mid>

[B] Doja Cat's sophomore album is titled after the "hot" variety of this color, which also titles a track from Janelle Monae's album *Dirty Computer*.

ANSWER: **pink** <Easy>

[C] This Doja Cat track sounds similar to Childish Gambino's "Sober" before it launches into a more bass-heavy Afro-influenced beat. This song rhymes "this incredible" with "this shit edible" and includes an exchange where Doja makes fun of her boyfriend's dick size by texting him a peanut emoji.

ANSWER: "**Go to Town**" <Hard>

7. This song repeats "there's a scream inside / That we all try to hide" while comparing its singer to the title creature. For ten points each,

[A] Name this song, which belts "I don't care if I sing off key" to kick off the chorus. The non-vocal hook to this song features harmonized wailing interrupted by the title phrase.

ANSWER: "**Bird Set Free**" <Hard>

[B] "Bird Set Free" was written by this Australian artist of "Cheap Thrills". This artist's many songwriting credits include Rihanna's "Diamonds" and Carly Rae Jepsen's "Boy Problems".

ANSWER: **Sia** <Easy>

[C] In the music video of a Sia song with this title, a girl smears rainbow on her cheeks and frees people from cages before everyone is gunned down, which is likely a representation of the Pulse nightclub shooting. A Lana Del Rey song with this title is paired with "Fuck it I love you" in an epic double feature video.

ANSWER: "**The Greatest**" <Mid>

8. This artist said she felt compelled to "remove myself from my public self" and "kill my ego" in response to lies spread about her on the Internet. For ten points each,

[A] Name this artist who said her upcoming record *Miss Anthropocene* will be "about a modern demonology or a modern pantheon where every song is about a different way to suffer or a different way to die" in a conversation with Lana del Rey.

ANSWER: **Grimes** (or **g**, or Claire **Boucher**) <Mid>

[B] Lana del Rey's conversation with Grimes was recorded soon after the release of this fifth album of hers. This album's long rollout was marked by singles like "Mariners Apartment Complex" and "Venice Bitch".

ANSWER: **Norman Fucking Rockwell!** (or **NER!**) <Easy>

[C] In the same interview, Lana mentions how good it felt to sing with this indie pop artist of “Mustang Kids”. The pre-chorus of a more famous single by this artist goes “Magnetic everything about you / You really got me, now”.

ANSWER: Zella **Day** <Hard>

9. The first verse of this song gives a shout-out to Héctor Lavoe, a Puerto Rican salsa singer. For ten points each,

[A] Name this 2019 reggaeton hit produced by El Guincho. This song’s title is rhymed over and over with words like “travesura” and “sepultura” in the chorus.

ANSWER: “**Con Altura**” <Mid>

[B] “Con Altura” is the lead single from this artist’s third album. This artist’s flamenco pop song “Malamente” was accused of cultural appropriation by some members of the Gitano community of Spain.

ANSWER: **ROSALÍA** Vila **Tobella** (accept either underlined part) <Easy>

[C] This concept album by ROSALÍA includes “Malamente” and tells the story of a woman locked in a tower by her lover. In this album’s song “BAGDAD”, a prostitute emerges from the title bar and sees an angel sent to her by God.

ANSWER: *El **Mal Querer** (The **Bad Love**)* <Hard>

10. One song from this album starts its bridge with the lyrics “Yeah you’re putting in overtime / I scored you are the prize”. For ten points each,

[A] Name this 2016 album that contains the song “Where Would I Be?”. The second single from this album asks the addressee “Why’d you have to go and make me like you?”.

ANSWER: ***This Is What the Truth Feels Like*** <Hard>

[B] *This is What the Truth Feels Like* is by this artist, who is more famous for writing “Hollaback Girl”. This former member of No Doubt has also branched into fashion with her L.A.M.B. clothing line.

ANSWER: Gwen **Stefani** <Easy>

[C] This soft rock hit by No Doubt was the most played song on American radio for 16 weeks. This song fades out over a melancholy guitar tune as Stefani pleads “Don’t tell me cuz it hurts”.

ANSWER: “**Don’t Speak**” <Mid>

11. An Israeli group called A-WA that releases electronic Middle Eastern fusion songs like “Habib Galbi” is composed of members that all have this last name. For ten points,

[A] Give this last name that titles a pop rock band composed of three sisters. That band with this name released the album *Days Are Gone* in 2013 as well as newer hits like “Summer Girl” and “Now I’m In It”.

ANSWER: **Haim** <Easy>

[B] In the video for “Summer Girl”, the Haim sisters help each other do this action while they walk down the street in front of a dude with a killer saxophone solo.

ANSWER: **take off clothes** (accept alternate descriptions) <Hard>

[C] This upbeat *Days Are Gone* track talks about how “it felt right” when the singer “fumbled” a relationship at the last moment. This song’s verses are punctuated by clap-sounding percussion and a subtle guitar bassline.

ANSWER: “**The Wire**” <Mid>

12. QT is one of this record label’s made-up pop stars, and her first appearance advertised a fictional “energy elixir”. For ten points each,

[A] Name this record label headed by A.G. Cook that combines exaggerated feminine vocals with disorienting electronic effects. Artists associated with this label include GFOTY and Hannah Diamond.

ANSWER: **PC Music** <Easy>

[B] This producer behind the album *Oil of Every Pearl’s Un-Insides* is closely associated with PC Music. This artist was featured on the Kim Petras track “1,2,3 dayz up”.

ANSWER: **SOPHIE Xeon** (accept either underlined name) <Mid>

[C] This SOPHIE song features clashing metallic noises along with pitched-up “nana-nana-nana” sounds. The YouTuber Contrapoints used this song as an intro for her video about facial feminization surgery.

ANSWER: “**Faceshopping**” <Hard>

13. Big Boi tells a character named Zora to put one of these things down in a collaboration between Janelle Monae and Outkast titled “Call the Law”. For ten points each,

[A] Name this weapon that titles a CHVRCHES song with a chorus that goes “Hide, hide, I have burned your bridges”. The song “Pumped Up Kicks” urges “all the other kids” to outrun one of these weapons.

ANSWER: **gun** <Easy>

[B] This blues rocker compares the seduction of her lover to armed robbery in her song “Put the Gun Down”. This artist appeared in an electropop collaboration with Lindsey Stirling called “Hold My Heart”.

ANSWER: ZZ **Ward** <Hard>

[C] This artist says “Vamoose to all of my old ways / I’m done, I live today” from the perspective of an alcoholic in the ZZ Ward song “Cryin Wolf”. This artist also delivers the rap verse in Anderson .Paak’s song “Tints”.

ANSWER: Kendrick **Lamar** <Mid>

14. This song rhymes “Wanna go bang bang” with “Want me to hang man” in its second verse. For ten points each,

[A] Name this single by EVERGLOW that goes “See you later / da piryo eopseo” in its chorus. This song was released on EVERGLOW’s second studio album *HUSH*.

ANSWER: “**Adios**” <Hard>

[B] EVERGLOW is often compared to this Korean girl group, who collaborated with Dua Lipa on the single “Kiss and Make Up”. Lisa raps “Make ‘em whistle like a missile, bomb, bomb” on their debut project *SQUARE ONE*.

ANSWER: **BLACKPINK** <Easy>

[C] This BLACKPINK single’s video broke the record for most YouTube views in 24 hours. This song, which uses the nonsense syllables “rum pum pum”, starts its aggressive second verse with the words “Here I come kickin’ the door”.

ANSWER: “**Kill this Love**” <Mid>

15. This song mentions people who are “dying by mistake in Silver Lake”, an LA neighborhood known for its nightlife. For ten points each,

[A] Name this Billie Eilish song that has a music video showing hands that grind cigarettes into Eilish’s face. Eilish mentions “being in their secondhand smoke” as smoke surrounds her bench during this song.

ANSWER: “**xanny**” <Mid>

[B] The video for Eilish’s “you should see me in a crown” shows several of these creatures crawling on her face. One of these creatures titles a hit by Iggy Azalea and Rita Ora that repeats “I’m gonna love ya” before the bass drop.

ANSWER: **spiders** (accept **black widow**) <Easy>

[C] An alternate video for “you should see me in a crown” was directed by this visual artist. In the video, this visual artist showed a long-necked spider beast terrorizing green stick figures as well as his trademark smiling flowers.

ANSWER: Takashi **Murakami** <Hard>

16. This thing titles a song that goes “I’m gonna dance until you’re all gone” in the chorus. For ten points each,

[A] Name this specific article of clothing that titles a Latin trap song that goes “I got your hands taking a ride on the wild side”. This article of clothing titles a song from Sara Bareilles’ *The Blessed Unrest*.

ANSWER: “**Little Black Dress**” (prompt on “dress”) <Hard>

[B] The song “LBD” is by this artist, who also worked with J Balvin on the song “Mayores”. This artist’s debut studio album *Mala Santa* followed a collaboration with Kane Brown titled “Lost in the Middle of Nowhere”.

ANSWER: **Becky G**(omez) <Mid>

[C] Becky G’s most successful song in the US is about “dancing in the mirror” and “singing in <this bathroom location>”.

ANSWER: **shower** <Easy>

17. This song was the lead single from the 2004 album *Breakaway*. For ten points each,

[A] Name this power ballad that triumphantly declares “I can breathe for the first time”. “Maps” by the Yeah Yeah Yeahs was transformed into this song through the addition of a pop chorus and heavy drums.

ANSWER: “**Since U Been Gone**” <Mid>

[B] This Swedish producer of “Since U Been Gone” had produced 22 (!) Billboard #1 hits by the end of 2019. He co-produced the Katy Perry songs “Teenage Dream” and California Gurls”, as well as Taylor Swift’s “Blank Space”.

ANSWER: Max **Martin** <Easy>

[C] “Since U Been Gone” was also produced by this guy, who adopted the pseudonym “Made in China” after he lost the CEO position at Kemosabe Records.

ANSWER: **Dr. Luke** (accept Lukasz **Gottwald**, accept “**He Who Must Not Be Named**”) <Hard>

18. This song uses the phrase “please retweet” because “retweet looks like 69 in arrows”. For ten points each,

[A] Name this track that starts with a trippy intro addressed to Himeros, the god of sexual desire. This song about being a bottom asserts “I don’t need to be on top to know I’m worth it”.

ANSWER: “**G.U.Y.**” <Mid>

[B] “G.U.Y.” is from this artist’s album *Artpop*, which followed her more commercially successful album *Born This Way*. This artist dove from the rooftop after singing the national anthem during the Super Bowl LI halftime show.

ANSWER: **Lady Gaga** (accept Stefani **Germanotta**) <Easy>

[C] This other song from *Artpop* addresses both a real lover through sung vocals and a fantasy lover through spoken vocals. This song about starting an affair declares “we’re both convicted criminals of thought”.

ANSWER: “**Sexxx Dreams**” <Hard>

19. This artist sang an “ocean eyes” duet with Billie Eilish in December 2019. For ten points each,

[A] Name this artist who sang “No one, no one, no one / Can get in the way of what I’m feelin’” in one of the highest charting singles of 2008. This artist delivers the soaring “New York” chorus on “Empire State of Mind” by Jay-Z.

ANSWER: Alicia **Keys** <Easy>

[B] This 2012 Alicia Keys hit was the lead single off her album with the same name. This song describes its title figure as “Hotter than a fantasy, lonely like a highway” and takes inspiration from *The Hunger Games*.

ANSWER: “**Girl on Fire**” <Mid>

[C] This *Hunger Games*-inspired track cautions “They used to shout my name, now they whisper it”. A 2014 AMA performance revealed the artist halfway through this song by raising an orange box.

ANSWER: “**Yellow Flicker Beat**” <Hard>

20. The accent of this track's singer comes through on the line "Will never keep your proud head from falling". For ten points each,

[A] Name this song about a troubled sibling relationship. A drawn out "go-o-o-o" in this song precedes its chorus line "Come in misery, where you can seem as old as your omens".

ANSWER: "The **Mother We Share**" <Hard>

[B] "The Mother We Share" is a song from *The Bones of What You Believe*, the debut album from this Scottish synth-pop group. This group's lead singer Lauren Mayberry repeats "You are a kaleidoscope" in their single "Get Out".

ANSWER: **CHVRCHES** <Easy>

[C] This other synth-pop act rose to prominence with the song "Bulletproof". Elly Jackson retained this group's name after its breakup to release the album *Trouble in Paradise*.

ANSWER: **La Roux** <Mid>

Ex. This substance titles a Deaton Chris Anthony song that begins "Damn, yo you got a booty" and was added to Charli XCX's "The motherfucking future" playlist in December 2019. For ten points each,

[A] Name this substance that titles a song featuring a crowd that yells "Ole!". That song named for this substance contains a lengthy saxophone instrumental and features rapper J Balvin.

ANSWER: Coca-**Cola** (prompt on "soda") <Hard>

[B] "Cola Song" is by this Romanian singer, who released her sixth studio album *Yo* in 2019. This singer was given full creative control of *Yo*, which allowed her to release genre-bending tracks like "Tu Manera" and "Gitana".

ANSWER: **INNA** (accept Elena Alexandra **Apostoleanu**) <Mid>

[C] Although INNA is Romanian, she and J Balvin usually sing in this more popular language.

ANSWER: **Spanish** <Easy>