

# Shadows and Robots

**1. When asked whether he wants to fight, a character in this work responds “On a scale from yes to no... Yes.” Mr. Starchman attacks some characters in this work under the false assumption that they are trying to take his Starchman Stars. A mysterious entity called Hijack interferes in a game of “Hitball” featured in this work. An overzealous journalist named Suzy in this work attempts to learn the secrets of (\*) Activity Club.** Characters in this work include a red-haired bully named Johnny Jhonny and the frequently incompetent teacher Mr. Spender. The protagonist of this comic wields a bat that is able to control magnetism. For ten points, name this webcomic by Jack Morrison about Max’s discovery of supernatural occurrences in the town of Mayview.

ANSWER: **Paranatural**

**2. In one work, a Lutheran priest from this region who can only remember the first letter of her name has a conversation in a mage’s dream. While exploring “Spot 24” in this region, a character accidentally steps on a corpse nicknamed “Doc Doormat”. Puppy Fox accidentally transports a village in this region into the spirit world in the webcomic A (\*) Redtail’s Dream.** A creature with a name meaning “water revenant” is among the many trolls found in this region. Residents of this modern-day region include the Hotakainen siblings Tuuri and Lalli, the latter of whom is immune to a strange illness. For ten points, name this modern-day setting of Minna Sundberg works like the post-apocalyptic comic *Stand Still. Stay Silent*.

ANSWER: **Nordic** countries (accept **Scandinavia**, anti-prompt on specific countries or cities, prompt on “Europe”)

**3. Username acceptable. According to Bad Webcomics Wiki, this man was so incensed over their treatment of one of his comics that he temporarily redirected all traffic from their original website. A character created by this author accidentally murders a room of people with a rainbow knife and steals a gem called the Avaril. In another work, this author made a controversial parody of the (\*) “I Have a Dream” speech focusing on environmentalism. An initiation ritual in a work by this author goes awry when masked assassins kill faculty and students, after which Lilith Cailleau is accused of conspiracy. The title characters of this author’s most famous work, a knockoff of *Calvin and Hobbes*, are a young girl and a raccoon. For ten points, name this German author of *Gaia* and *Sandra and Woo*.**

ANSWER: Oliver **Knörzer** (accept **Novil**)

**4. One character in this work lists an unexplained allergy to bananas as her third limitation. A toxic but non-fatal poison is put into apples in this comic to make the population fear a certain organization’s use of jaderoot. Upon discovering a lab robbery, one character in this work commands another to “unhand that science!”. In order to demonstrate her merit, a girl in this comic says “I’m not a girl, I’m a (\*) shark” while turning into a shark. A villain in this comic has a deep hatred for Ambrosius Goldenloin, who shot his arm off when they attended the Institute of Law Enforcement and Heroics. For ten points, name this comic about the exploits of Ballister Blackheart and the title shapeshifting girl, a work by Noelle Stevenson.**

ANSWER: **Nimona**

**5. A ball in this comic turns into the Pinwheel of Death, causing the beach to close unexpectedly. In a *Family Circus*-inspired strip from this comic, a group of kids knock all of their teeth out after one gets \$20 from the tooth fairy. One child in this comic is lured into a school bus by his Dad during a game of Cave Explorer. Another child from this comic is given wheelchair accommodations by a rainbow cloud so that he can be sacrificed to Aranaktu. One strip from this comic explains why (\*) Indian children win so many spelling bees by depicting a wrestling match between Jesus and Ganesha. A kid in this comic is impaled by a herd of unicorns after calling a pink shirt-wearing kid a “gay-wad”. For ten points, name this gag-a-day webcomic by Nicholas Gurewitch.**

ANSWER: **The Perry Bible Fellowship**

6. A character in this work is buried under a mountain of rubble, after which her location is marked by a sword. Another character in this work cheats on an entrance exam after exclaiming “I’m not lazy! I studied this material for days!”. A machine in this work that grants the user immortality is called the Gate to Paradise. In this comic, Maggie develops a crush on Gil, who is trying to become a doctor for (\*) TITAN. This comic takes the form of a notebook, and new panels load within the webpage. Wrathia, the main antagonist of this webcomic, forces the protagonist to act against her will after forcing her to sign a contract to avoid her death. For ten points, name this webcomic about a girl possessed by a malevolent spirit written by Michelle Czapkowski.

ANSWER: Ava’s Demon

7. A dedicated firefighter in this work intentionally acts like a jerk in order to put out the fires of hell after he dies. A town in this work is “beset by the bizarrest of feelings” after a recurring character saves them from a creature that crawls on the sky. Other recurring characters in this comic include one who makes a list of everyone who likes him and another who crosses out the only name on that list. Those recurring characters in this comic are named Jolly Octopus and (\*) Saddest Turtle. In the strip “Romance on the Floating Island” from this work, Sarah ponders her relationship with Stephen before wondering what Skeleton Harvester is thinking. For ten points, name this gag-a-day webcomic by Ray Castro and Alex Culang.

ANSWER: Buttersafe

8. One work by this author shows bandits trying to snatch the capstone of the Washington Monument and sometimes displays the text “Return to Play Area” at the bottom of the panel. Another work by this author was the basis for the idle game Sandcastle Builder and featured 3,099 images that were posted at hour intervals. Another work by this author uses only the 1,000 most common English words to explain things like Up Goer 5. That work is titled (\*) *Thing Explainer*. In another work, this author concluded that a baseball thrown at relativistic speeds would engulf the stadium in incandescent plasma. This author frequently depicts velociraptors in his comic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language. For ten points, name this author of *What If?* and *xkcd*.

ANSWER: Randall Munroe

9. This character is traumatized by both Grand Theft Auto and a non-human character’s attempt to smile in two different bonus strips in which she appears. A full-page panel depicting a nightmarish half-centipede creature is the only image from this character’s POV in the chapter “The Realm of the Dead”. While travelling using a blinker stone, this character receives a cut on her face from the ghost of the Annan Waters, also known as (\*) Jeanne. This character’s mother Surma dies before the work she appears in takes place and is the source of her ability to control fire. This character guides a shadow into the forest in the beginning of the work in which she appears. For ten points, name this companion of Kat, the protagonist of Gunnerkrigg Court.

ANSWER: Antimony Carver (accept Annie Carver, prompt on “Carver”)

10. A comic claims that one of these creatures is the “worst roommate” since it eats your cake and makes it rain all the time. Two panels of a work featuring these creatures are followed by a panel of a hiker captioned “STEREOTYPE”. The “exciting” mascot of a comic about these creatures wears a top hat and a bowtie. In another work, a girl kills these creatures by running over their habitat with a lawnmower. A merchant who sells (\*) repellent for these creatures informs a customer that it is made with his pee. An old man tries to argue that these creatures don’t evolve by asking “if we came from Mankeys, then why do we still have Mankeys?”. For ten points, name these creatures, the subjects of the webcomics *Rare Candy Treatment* and *Super Effective*.

ANSWER: Pokémon

11. This character writes a children’s book that teaches important lessons about life, like “everyone you know will one day be dead”, titled “Happy Dog the Happy Dog”. This character remarks that character names based on maps will be more plausible than “Lady I. Amasexhaver”, which is why he names his superspy

character “Angola Maldives”. This character frequently begins stories with the phrase “one day (\*) Batman”, such as one in which Batman discovers that his enemies represent various flaws in his own personality. In every strip that this character appears in, he is seen crushing a house next to a car and standing in the same six positions. For ten points, name this character that talks to Utahraptor in every strip of *Dinosaur Comics*.

ANSWER: **T-Rex** (prompt on “the green dinosaur from Dinosaur Comics” and other descriptive answers)

12. In one work, a girl from this time period learns that she was upset with Millie Weaver by reading an old letter from the back of a stagecoach. During a vignette set during this time period, the Lions of Morante fight off the title “Serpents in the Water” while crossing the Levian Ocean. In another section from that same work, an assassin named Penelope from this time period fights a character who is trying to get ahold of (\*) Cinna’s mask. In another work, Beatrice Whaley travels to this time period every night while trying to help Alan Warren with espionage. In one comic set during this time period, Jassart seeks to take advantage of a winter manitou who is searching for a heart. For ten points, name this setting of the webcomics *The Dreamer* and *Snow by Night*.

ANSWER: **Colonial America** (accept **American Revolution**, accept **Revolutionary Era**)

13. A mage in this comic named Jojo is nearly arrested after she performs a Lux illumination spell in a public square. A figure who can summon a sword from two jars of light and create forcefields appears in an animated sequence from this comic. The main characters of this comic travel to Flore using a water-activated map called the Navigator’s Chart. Volumes of this comic are named after the seasons, and a man in this comic shoots a flying (\*) ship after mistaking it for a giant serpent. A shipwright with a mysterious tattoo is forced to leave home in this comic after her friend Seta is ordered to kill her. For ten points, name this comic about Luna and Ten’s voyage into the unknown by Michael Sexton.

ANSWER: **Everblue**

14. One installment of this webcomic attracted controversy for using a Scottish slur to describe the Irish American invasion of Canada. A chubby pony that first appeared in this webcomic eventually became a central character of its creator’s picture book *The Princess and the Pony*. This webcomic’s depiction of a (\*) velocipedestrienne became the cover of another book by its creator. A popular reaction image that originated from this webcomic depicts Edgar Allan Poe closely reading a letter about hot air balloons. Recurring gags in this webcomic include extensions of Edward Gorey illustrated book covers and paraphrases of classic novels like *Wuthering Heights* and *The Great Gatsby*. For 10 points, name this Kate Beaton-produced webcomic that was officially archived in 2018.

ANSWER: **Hark! A Vagrant**

*This tossup was a guest contribution from Olivia Lamberti*

15. One character in this work runs away from a fight screaming and returns with a lion-like creature chasing him. Another character in this work uses the malerve flower to tame a fiendi, which allows her to get an Erbana Esone. Prior to the events of this work, the leader of Deconstruct Me uses a device called a Hakido to wreak havoc. In this comic, people known as Outsiders are discriminated against by Citizens, who live in safer locations such as (\*) TENka City. This comic is primarily set in a virtual reality called L.i.F.e., from which people compete to enter a reality show called the Game. For ten points, name this post-apocalyptic webcomic about a reformed hacker named Kleya by Aneeka Richins.

ANSWER: **Not a Villain**

16. A time traveller with an eyepatch in this comic screams at a character who claims that the repeal of net neutrality made the total happiness in the world increase. A bag of Cheez-O’s in this comic responds to broccoli with the words “I make the bad hungry feel go away”. After being told that he will stop having responsibilities when he is dead, a character in this comic tries to dig his own grave. A character in this comic

**labeled (\*)** Type A tells a character labeled Type B “I’ll follow your dreams!” and proceeds to become the BEST CHEF. This comic often pits a purple muscle man labeled Life against its red-haired protagonist. For ten points, name this gag-a-day comic written by Shen.

ANSWER: Owlturd (accept Shen Comix)

**17. A flow chart created by this author reads “we are no longer bro dawgs” if the reader is using the word “moist” to describe anything other than cake or moist towelettes. A comic by this author about Nikola Tesla was used to launch a fundraising campaign to restore Wardencllyffe Tower. Another comic by this author describes a drink as tasting of “the souls of ten thousand unborn panda bears” after being chased through a forest by Japanese giant (\*) hornets. Elan Lee and this author broke the record for the most-backed Kickstarter of all time after getting over 200,000 people to fund their card game Exploding Kittens. An entity called “The Blerch” is used to explain the terrible and wonderful reasons why this author runs long distances. For ten points, name this author of *The Oatmeal*.**

ANSWER: Matthew Inman

**18. In a work based on these settings, a weapon breaks with the sound effect “sunder”. A character from one of these settings is associated with “Owlbears” and is frequently mocked by a creature named Fortyfive. A ship called the *Mechane* from a comic based on one of these settings is helmed by a dramatic captain named Julio Scoundrel. An evil twin named (\*) Nale and a character named Redcloak are among the enemies of the title group in a comic based on these settings. Rich Burlew created a work based on these activities that begins with a band of heroes trying to find Xykon in the Dungeon of Dorukan. For ten points, name these games that serve as the basis for webcomics like *Will Save World for Gold* and *Order of the Stick*.**

ANSWER: role-playing games (accept RPGs, accept Dungeons and Dragons)

**19. A man in this comic rebukes his daughter’s dismay over a band breakup by claiming to be anti-sad and demonstrates by sticking a sliced onion into his eye without crying. One mom from this comic punishes her children by secretly spraying them with urine and sending them out on playdates. A creepy construction worker in this comic (\*) quotes poetry by Po Chu-I while hitting on passerby due to his job requiring a college degree. A man covers for Hank by telling his daughter that a belief in monsters “mocks a thousand centuries of human suffering”. A strip of this comic explains why SpaceX is based in the Bay Area using the concept of “not-in-my-backyardism”, or “nimbyism”. For ten points, name this gag-a-day webcomic by Zach Weinersmith.**

ANSWER: Saturday Morning Breakfast Cereal (accept SMBC)

**20. The protagonist of this webcomic inexplicably has his weapon replaced with a TV prop from Silver Studios. He later plays a shrub in a play put on by a child from this comic masquerading as a dead count. A capsule from this comic grants the user “the power to place a comically oversized bathtub drain on any surface”. That capsule is used to defeat (\*) Splashmaster, one of the disciples that the heroes of this comic must defeat. In this comic, the protagonist is told by his father to ditch school and get the Dream Sword from the Oracle before a certain character obtains the Disaster Stones. The protagonists of this comic resemble bunnies and go on a quest to defeat the Nightmare Knight. For ten points, name this satirical adventure comic by gigi d.g..**

ANSWER: Cucumber Quest