

2021 Festivus

“Acro-demia” (with respects to Play Quiz Bowl)

Questions by JinAh Kim and Jordan Brownstein

1. In the jukebox musical *Once Upon A One More Time*, soundtracked by Britney Spears, the Fairy Godmother appears and gives Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty copies of this book. After Joey bribes him with \$300 to pay for his prom costs, Patrick tries to win over Kat by claiming he’s lost his copy of this book in *10 Things I Hate About You*. Several articles I found claim that this book is read by a January Jones-played TV character who suffers from its “problem that has no name,” although none of them actually cite the episode in which she supposedly reads this book. For 10 points, an oddly high number of thinkpieces relate what 1963 book to Don Draper’s wife, who, like its author, is named Betty?

ANSWER: *The **Feminine Mystique***

2. A line by this poet titles a novel in which the kind but overbearing Heather Badcock is poisoned at a garden party after drinking from a famous actress’ glass; in that novel titled from a poem by this author, Miss Marple realizes Marina Gregg’s horrified, frozen expression results from recognizing the woman who gave her German measles while she was pregnant. While acting out a poem by this author, an auburn-haired girl severely reprimands her friend that “she shouldn’t talk about Mrs. Lynde ... because this is hundreds of years before Mrs. Lynde was born.” Gilbert unsuccessfully tries to reconcile with Anne after rescuing her from drowning while she plays a character who, in a poem by this author, “lay as though she smiled.” For 10 points, Agatha Christie’s *The Mirror Crack’d From Side to Side* derives its title from what author’s “The Lady of Shalott?”

ANSWER: Alfred, Lord **Tennyson**

3. In one work, two adherents of this ideology are found trying to make a matchstick castle stay up through the power of their belief. 0.000% of this ideology has been built, which makes one character into “a very, very smart boy with something like a university degree in Truth.” This ideology uses the symbol of a white five-pointed star and antlers, which lives on in the white-star emblem of an Ignus Nilsen-founded isola on Samara. Passing a passive skill check in Encyclopedia and examining the bust of this ideology’s founder will allow the player to insist that *you* are the founder of this ideology, who supposedly died by suicide. A sidequest in which you smell characters to determine whether they follow this ideology is unlocked by the Thought Cabinet option Mazovian Socio-Economics. The Gottwald School and the Infra-materialists are subcategories of, for 10 points, what ideology, one of the primary political alignments in *Disco Elysium* along with Moralism, Fascism, and Ultraliberalism?

ANSWER: **communism**

4. In the first verse of “Can You Get to That” by Funkadelic, the singers describe encountering an “old quotation” about these two actions “in a book just yesterday.” A line about these two actions is menacingly repeated in the outro of “Perfect Day” by Lou Reed. A viral tweet from 2019 that plays on a proverb from Galatians 6 pairs the line “Haha fuck yeah!!! Yes!!” with one of these actions, and the line “Well this fucking sucks. What the fuck.” with the other. For 10 points, that proverb about what two agricultural actions is used to mean that you must face the consequences of your behaviors?

ANSWER: **sowing** and **reaping**

<Jordan Brownstein>

5. In one film, McKenna Grace plays Mary, a prodigy whose mother committed suicide after devoting her life to this discipline, which was also the profession of her mother, Evelyn. Near the end of a film about the Arab-Canadian immigrant Nawal, her son asks his sister a question referencing a lecture she gave on this discipline, foreshadowing the revelation that his brother Nihad de Mai is also his father, Abu Tarek; that film is Dennis Villeneuve’s *Incendies*. In a short story, Renee’s belief that she has identified a fundamental flaw in this discipline causes her to spiral into despair and attempt suicide, causing her biologist husband Carl to fall out of love with her even as he visits her in

the mental ward. That story was republished alongside “Hell is the Absence of God” in *Stories of Your Life and Others*. For 10 points, what discipline provides the title of Ted Chiang’s “Division by Zero?”

ANSWER: **mathematics**

6. While supposedly at this location researching Sheridan Le Fanu, a woman is protected during an attack by a dog collar her romantic interest bought her. That novel primarily set at this location ends with the proposal “Placetne, magistra?”, referencing a traditional ritual held here. While on a rowboat near this place, one character muses “How fleeting are all human passions compared with the massive continuity of ducks,” as you may have learned from Scattergories 4. This is the main setting of the only Dorothy L. Sayers novel to feature Harriet Vane as its primary protagonist. While at this location, an 11-year old Lyra and Pantalaimon witness the attempted poisoning of Lord Asriel. Lyra lives in an alternate universe part of this location named Jordan, while fellow *His Dark Materials* protagonist Will Parry falls into Cittagazze after traveling to this location. For 10 points, name this location of the fictional Shrewsbury College, where Lord Peter Wimsey excelled in cricket at Balliol.

ANSWER: **Oxford** University [prompt on Shrewsbury College or Jordan College until mention]

7. It’s not related to giving or taking, but variations on this phrase provide most of the lyrics of the final track from *Tangerine Reef*, by Animal Collective. This phrase opens a song that declares “In a dream you will never be down / some how / some how,” in which it precedes the line “I had to kill the new sheriff in town.” The first half of this phrase titles a Sage Francis song about the emotional trials of childhood and adolescence, whose lyrics replace one adjective in this phrase with “end.” This phrase opens the title track of the Sleigh Bells album *Bitter Rivals*. Another song titled in reference to this literary phrase opens “Tonight’s the night we’ll make history” and was one of its band’s highest-charting singles after “Show Me the Way” and “Mr. Robot.” In that Styx song, pessimistic headlines claim the second half of this phrase is true, while the singer claims the first half of this phrase refers to “when I’m alone with you.” For 10 points, name this paradoxical sentence that precedes “it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness” in the opening of *A Tale of Two Cities*.

ANSWER: it was the **best of times**, it was the **worst of times** [prompt on partial answer]

8. Shortly after a filming of *Girls With Low Self Esteem*, objects labeled with this character’s name backwards allow one character to survive an explosion at sea, with her survival playing a pivotal part of an episode set on Bring Your Daughter to Work day. After making a collage of this man for his teacher, who “loves” him, one character bemoans that he defaced a rare book to get a picture of this man in a bathing suit. One person believed to be this man claims “I’m no scar. Dot com,” which would have directed viewers to the fake site “IMNOSCAR.COM.” When told “We’ve got a picture of you with [this man],” one character declares, “I thought that was the guy who played the Soup Nazi,” which is later called back to when Larry Thomas appears as one of several lookalikes of this man living together in a group house. Michael complains about GOB’s (*jobs*) use of the slogan “solid as a rock” because he thinks it’ll remind people about their father’s alleged dealings with this man. For 10 points, George Bluth Sr. is accused of “light treason” after selling homes to what dictator?

ANSWER: Saddam **Hussein** (prompt on Saddam)

9. A Boston-area indie rock band partly named for this surname released “Saved By Science Fiction” and “Know Your Exit.” A partly-black-and-white music video for an album with this name features surreal clips of women applying makeup to their faces and dancing around the singer; that music video for “Vanessa” was Grimes’ directorial debut. CeCe Drake uses this alias to escape to France after murdering Detective Wilden in the episode “EscApe From New York.” This is the name of Grimes’ split EP with fellow Montreal artist d’Eon, released in 2011. In *Pretty Little Liars*, it is revealed that Alison used this name as an alias to spy on “A,” putting on a black wig and red coat to do so. For 10 points, name this surname of Clare Quilty’s confederate, which forms an anagram of Vladimir Nabokov’s name when combined with “Vivian.”

ANSWER: **Darkbloom** [accept Vivian **Darkbloom**]

10. One of this man's poems titles a song whose chorus repeats "take my callous hands, sink these bloody fingers"; that song is titled "Too Many Flesh Suppers." In "Coda: A Burn Scar in the Shape of the Sooner State," the lines "the first time, the last time, all the times I would have liked there to have been" are taken from this author's "Bad news for her mother." This author has been cited as a major inspiration by the band behind *Sick Scenes* and *Romance is Boring*, British emo band Los Campesinos! Nick Moran starred in a 2000 adaptation of one of this author's novels, in which he plays a man whose life is changed after his accounting class teaches him about Luca Pacioli. This author of *Christie Malry's Own Double-Entry* shares his initials and surname with the Discworld architect behind the post office mail sorter, the ho-ho, and Empirical Crescent, a "bloody stupid" architect who may be a parody of Capability Brown. For 10 points, name this experimental author of a "book in a box" with 15.5 septillion reading orders, *The Unfortunates*.

ANSWER: B.S. **Johnson**

11. Björk reads words by this writer over a beat made from the sounds of wisdom teeth being ground up on the first track of Baltimore duo Matmos's album *The Rose Has Teeth In The Mouth of a Beast*, which takes its title from this person's work. In the role of Lady Ottoline Morrell, Tilda Swinton wore stripes of blue and yellow paint on her face in one scene of a film titled for this person, the sole screenwriting credit of critic Terry Eagleton. In "The Springfield Files," Mulder and Scully force Homer to admit that he was "eating packets of mustard in Barney's car," not discussing this thinker "over a game of backgammon" at the "gentleman's club." This man utters phrases like "to imagine a language is to imagine a form of life" in a Derek Jarman film titled for him, and inspired Laurie Anderson songs like "If You Can't Talk About it, Point to it." For 10 points, name this Austrian philosopher.

ANSWER: Ludwig **Wittgenstein**

<Jordan Brownstein>

12. Trevor Reznik sees a marquee advertising this novel while on the funhouse ride Route 666 in *The Machinist*, whose ending mirrors the resolution of this novel. This novel is generally considered to have inspired a film whose protagonist learns his profession at a racetrack and falls in love with Jeanne, Luc Bresson's *Pickpocket*. According to his writers, Columbo was modeled after a combination of Father Brown and a character from this novel. In a song titled for this novel's author, Black Thought's opening verse ends by declaring "this is [this novel], I'm the judge and the jury," before Rapsody's verse begins. In a track from *The Sunset Tree*, a reference to this novel opens a verse that ends "the things you do for love are going to come back to you one by one" and says the protagonist "felt sick ... when he saw his face reflected in his victim's twinkling eye. For 10 points, what novel is referenced in The Mountain Goats' "Love Love Love," which namedrops Raskolnikov?

ANSWER: **Crime and Punishment** (if someone says *The Double* on the leadin, tell them, "name the other novel it mirrors")

Either the official name of the poem or its first line are acceptable.

13. Lines from this verse *open* a bonus track that only appears on the Japanese version of *Geogaddi* by Boards of Canada. The *Lost* episode titled for this verse reveals that Mr. Eko was a former warlord in Nigeria and includes Eko and Charlie reciting this poem as the Beechcraft burns. This poem is recited in part, then parodied with mentions of "bright knives" and "hooks in high places" in a Pink Floyd song that asks, "Have you heard the news? The dogs are dead." A recitation of this poem impresses Carr Gomm and convinces him to let Joseph Merrick stay at London Hospital in David Lynch's *The Elephant Man*. This verse is parodied in the Pink Floyd song "Sheep." A Weird Al parody replaces part of one reference to this poem with "where I harvest my grain." "Gangsta's Paradise" opens with, for 10 points, a reference to what psalm via the line "As I walk through the valley of the shadow of death"?

ANSWER: **Psalm 23** [prompt on partial answer; accept "**The Lord is my shepherd**"; generously prompt on answers that quote the valley of the shadow of death line]

14. In one episode of *Elementary*, while performing this activity, Sherlock calls love a "hedge against the terror of mortality" and asks "why is love needed?" before agreeing to accept a case from eventual murder victim Edwin

Borstein. In that episode, Sherlock proves Bella incapable of murder and references Eugene Goostmans, supposedly a 13-year old boy from Eastern Europe. In *Metal Gear Solid: Peace Walker*, Dr. Strangelove muses that this activity's creator may have been inspired by his interest in the differences between men and women in devising this technique. In the first A24 film to win an Oscar, a character played by Domnhall Gleeson is invited to the home of Blue Book's CEO, supposedly in order to perform this activity on Ava. For 10 points, *Ex Machina* plays on what construct, referenced in the title of the biopic *The Imitation Game*?

ANSWER: the **Turing Test**

15. In one song, this figure warns "You can stand up or you can run / You and I both know what you've done" and repeats, "I will carry you home in my teeth." This is the only fictional, non-Aztec namesake of a song on *Zopilote Machine*, the first studio album by The Mountain Goats. In a novel that begins by retelling Ahmad ibn Fadlan's journey, this figure is said to resemble a Venus figurine and is said to be the origin of "mist-monsters"; that novel is Michael Crichton's *Eaters of the Dead*. In a 2007 Robert Zemeckis film, this character is represented as both a lizardlike creature and a nude, gold-covered woman, who seduces the protagonist and asks him to give her a son. For 10 points, name this character played by Angelina Jolie in *Beowulf*.

ANSWER: **Grendel's Mother**

16. In the 2014 remake of *Robocop*, Michael Keaton's office includes a mostly pink version of a set of paintings by this artist. A video essay by VoorDeFilm tracks the influence of this artist on David Lynch, comparing a shot of Dale Cooper floating in the glass box in *Twin Peaks: The Return* to a painting by this man of a man in a suit floating in a glass cube, and comparing a scene of Cooper sitting with the Man from Another Place in the Black Lodge to a painting by this man of a suit-wearing figure seated on a chaise. In an interview with the Tate, Christopher Nolan described incorporating the "bleakness" of this artist into the Joker's makeup, while in Tim Burton's *Batman*, the Joker instructs his henchman Bob not to destroy one of this artist's paintings. HR Giger and Ridley Scott based the chestbuster in *Alien* in part on this artist's studies for figures at the base of a crucifixion, which depict white, misshapen figures with a mouth for a head. For 10 points, name this artist of *Triptych Inspired by the Oresteia of Aeschylus* and *Figure with Meat*.

ANSWER: Francis **Bacon**

17. This novel is referenced in the title of a song that repeats "He rubs us clean, but love is blind / a balloon artist kisses porcupine." That Los Campesinos! song replaces one word in this novel's title with an Italian soccer term for a kind of playmaker. A song from Car Seat Headrest's third studio album that mentions "casually scroll[ing] through" furry fetish site FurAffinity plays on this novel's title, replacing its last word. An author claimed he was *not* referencing this novel via his set of autobiographical stories with an extremely similar title; that memoir, set in Swansea, was published by New Directions with a cover photo of a dog smoking a cigarette. Dylan Thomas wrote about his childhood in that set of stories, whose title replaces the last word of this novel's title with "dog." For 10 points, a Rembrandt self-portrait inspired the title of what novel by James Joyce about Stephen Dedalus?

ANSWER: **A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man**

18. In a scene from the episode "Atlantis, Arise!" Megatron addresses Thundercracker after replacing part of this structure with his own body; in a reference to that scene, in *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*, Megatron shoots at and sits in this structure as Starscream praises him for his plan to use Sentinel Prime as a mole. Annabeth sends Percy a photo of her with her arms crossed in front of this structure, looking pleased, "like she'd personally designed the place," in *The Sea of Monsters*. While the initial plan is *not* stated here, this is where Nicolas Cage's Benjamin admits to Riley that it's likely that they'll go to jail for stealing the Declaration of Independence in *National Treasure*. In *Night at the Museum 2: Battle of the Smithsonian*, a Hank-Azaria-voiced statue at this location tells Larry and Amelia Earheart that they're a cute couple, and later leaves his berth to help defeat Kahmunrah's forces. For 10 points, name this Daniel Chester French-designed monument that stands at the western end of the National Mall.

ANSWER: the **Lincoln Memorial**

19. This is the main conceit of Jessica's quiz for Ange during the Halloween party in *Umineko: When they Cry*. It doesn't involve Aruba, but this topic provides the B-plot of an episode in which the revelation that Qwador the dragon is a female is said to have caused significant fan backlash. A disagreement over this topic results in an argument that ends in a "snide voicemail about 'kindergarten statistics,'" and causes one character to say, "Gross! Those are our dads! I mean... that's not what I think. Captain Dad is just my boss." In *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Christopher reflects that this topic demonstrates that intuitions can be wrong and that he's not just interested in math because it has straightforward answers. In one episode, an argument about this puzzle sets off several enraged shouts of "BOOOOONE?" when Diaz suggests that the underlying issue is not probability theory, but that Kevin and Holt haven't been able to have sex. For 10 points, a subplot in *Brooklyn-99* involves an argument over what classic puzzle involving the optimal way to win a car on *Let's Make a Deal*?

ANSWER: the **Monty Hall** Problem

20. This story is retold in a Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds song that includes the line "If you play that fucking thing down here / I'll stick it up your orifice." A song centered on this story includes the French words "*De l'autre côté de l'eau / Comme un écho*." Adele Haenel's last words in *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* reference this story, calling back to a previous conversation in which she and Marianne debated over why one character in the myth makes a certain choice. Two back-to-back tracks centered on this myth are titled "Awful Sound" and "It's Never Over," and their titles greet the two central figures of this myth in parentheses. This myth is depicted on the cover of an album that includes the songs "Here Comes the Night Time" and "Afterlife," Arcade Fire's *Reflektor*. For 10 points, what Greek myth inspired the She & Him song "Don't Look Back," as well as the musical *Hadestown*?

ANSWER: **Orpheus** and **Eurydice**