

Vedul's Short Poetry Packet

This packet contains 20/0 of short tossups on short poems.

Completed 7/12/22

1. **NOTE TO PLAYERS:** *The first line of this poem is acceptable until mentioned.* **This poem describes years appearing “in a gracious hand” and “[bearing] a gift for mortals, old or young.” While reading an “antique tongue,” this poem’s speaker laments “gradual vision through my tears, / The sweet, sad years, the melancholy years.” The speaker of this poem mistakes the identity of a “mystic shape” and incorrectly answers the question ““Guess now who holds thee?””, after which (*) “the silver answer rang ... ‘Not Death, but Love.’” “I thought once how Theocritus had sung” opens – for 10 points – what Elizabeth Barrett Browning poem, the first in a collection of 44 love sonnets.**

ANSWER: **Sonnets from the Portuguese 1** [or equivalents; accept **“I thought once how Theocritus had sung”**]

2. **In the final stanza of this poem, the speaker laments “I should have loved a thunderbird instead; / At least when spring comes they roar back again.” This poem’s speaker relives a night with her lover in the lines “I dreamed that you bewitched me into bed / And sung me moon-struck, kissed me quite insane.” The speaker of this poem describes closing her eyes in the lines “The (*) stars go waltzing out in blue and red, / And arbitrary blackness gallops in.” This poem repeats the refrains “I shut my eyes and all the world drops dead” and the parenthetical “(I think I made you up inside my head.)” For 10 points, name this villanelle by Sylvia Plath.**

ANSWER: **“Mad Girl’s Love Song”**

3. **The speaker of this poem instructs the reader to let one concept be “what goes soaring, sighing, / Set free, fleeing from the soul gone flying” and “sprinkled over / Dawn’s wind.” This poem dedicated to Charles Morice opens with the declaration “Music first and foremost!” This poem commands the speaker to “Take vain Eloquence and wring its neck!” and contains advice like (*) “Choose those meters odd of syllable” and “Best you keep your Rhyme sober and sound.” For 10 points, name this Paul Verlaine poem which takes its title from a treatise by Horace.**

ANSWER: **“Ars Poetique”** [or Ars Poetica; or The Art of Poetry]

4. **The second to last stanza of this poem intersperses the parenthetical “(God forgive you that)” between lines of a refrain. This poem’s speaker criticizes the hypocrisy of the addressee in the lines “you who at the / Vine-draped banquet / Forfeited your flesh / To feast to Bacchus.” The speaker of this poem instructs the addressee to put “[his] soul which was left entangled / In all the bedrooms” back in his flesh before asking the speaker to be “snowy” and (*) “chaste.” For 10 points, name this Alfonsina Storni poem which opens “You want me like dawn,” whose title may allude to a line from Federico García Lorca’s “Romance Sonámbulo.”**

ANSWER: **“You Want me White”**

5. **The speaker of this poem declares he must “enter again the round / Zion of the water bead / And the synagogue of the ear of corn.” This poem’s speaker vows to not “blaspheme down the stations of the breath / With any further / Elegy of innocence and youth.” This poem opens “Never until the mankind making / Bird beast and flower / Fathering and all humbling darkness.” The second to last line of this poem describes a “secret by the (*) unmourning water / Of the riding Thames.” For 10 points, name this Dylan Thomas elegy about the Blitz which concludes “after the first death, there is no other.”**

ANSWER: **“A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London”**

6. *NOTE TO PLAYERS: Description acceptable.* The speaker of the poem in which this character appears “would rise and dress, / fearing the chronic angers of that house” after being called by this character. This character “got up early /and put his clothes on in the blueblack cold” despite his “cracked hands that ached / from labor in the weekday weather.” The poem in which this character appears concludes by questioning (*) “what did I know /of love’s austere and lonely offices?” For 10 points, name this relative of the speaker who “no one ever thanked” in Robert Hayden’s “Those Winter Sundays.”

ANSWER: the **father** from “**Those Winter Sundays**” [accept answers like Robert **Hayden’s dad**; accept obvious equivalents; prompt on partial answer before mentioned]

7. The speaker of this poem recounts how “[he] said things like / I can’t describe the air on my skin can you can you please.” Stanzas in this poem are surrounded by two sets of ellipses and contain long spaces to separate phrases. In the final stanza of this poem the speaker apologizes “I’m sorry for my light the endlessness of my endless.” The speaker of this poem repeats the phrase “If I ever see you again” in three tenses and states “I made sure of that” before describing how he repeatedly circles a lake. For 15 points, name this Nate Pritts poem that opens “It was the summer I fucked up.”(*)

ANSWER: “**Endless Summer**”

8. *NOTE TO PLAYERS: The first line of this poem is acceptable until mentioned.* The speaker of this poem claims he performs one action “without knowing how, or when, or from where” and “like this because I don’t know any other way.” This poem concludes with the lines “so close that your hand upon my chest is mine, / so close that your eyes close with my dreams.” In contrast to this poem’s first line, the speaker tells the addressee “I love you as one loves certain obscure things, / secretly, between the shadow and the soul.” The first line of this poem declares “I don’t love you as if you were a (*) rose of salt, topaz.” For 10 points, name this poem from Pablo Neruda’s *One Hundred Love Sonnets* whose number is three greater than its number of lines.

ANSWER: **One Hundred Love Sonnets: XVII** [accept “**I don’t love you as if you were a rose of salt, topaz**” until mentioned; accept **17** after “*One Hundred Love Sonnets*”; accept **Sonnet 17** by Pablo **Neruda** or equivalent, prompt on partial until “Neruda”]

9. New Zealand author Siobhan Harvey repeats “I must keep still” in a poem titled for the wife of this poem’s title character. The speaker of this poem describes how a “black eyed woman... took you the way a woman takes / a bargain dress off the rack / and I broke the way a stone breaks.” This poem’s final stanza describes “boys and girls” as “glimmering creatures full of lies” and claims “They are eating each other. They are overfed.” This poem’s first line claims “The end of the affair is always death.” For 10 points, name this poem which repeats the line (*) “At night, alone, I marry the bed,” a ballad by Anne Sexton.

ANSWER: “**Ballad of the Lonely Masturbator**”

10. The speaker of this poem instructs the addressee to “give some thought to... the way you weed” and describes “Watching you... ostensibly / working hard while actually / doing the worst job possible.” This poem’s speaker earlier tells the addressee “your back is my favorite part of you,” because it is “furthest away from your mouth.” This poem concludes “you are all that’s wrong with my life / and I (*) need you and I claim you.” The speaker of this poem claims “I like watching you garden / with your back to me in” the title piece of clothing. For 10 points, name this Louise Gluck poem about a “small irritating purple thing.”

ANSWER: “**Purple Bathing Suit**”

11. The speaker of this poem leads a man through a maze, after which “the buttons of [his] waistcoat bruised my body as he clasped me.” This poem’s speaker repeatedly describes walking “down... garden paths / In my stiff, brocaded gown” War is likened to one of the title entities after the speaker declares “ the man who should loose me is dead, / Fighting with the Duke in Flanders.” The speaker of this poem receives a letter informing her of her fiancé (*) Lord Hartwell’s death. For 10 points, name this Amy Lowell poem which asks, “Christ, what are [the title entities] for?”

ANSWER: “Patterns”

12. The author of this poem may have referenced another author’s occupation as a doctor in this poem’s final section, which ends “I wanted you here in the wards, where I am the doctor!” In the second section of this poem, the speaker describes how “we laughed at the hollyhocks together /and then I sprayed them with lye” and declares “I simply do not know what I am doing.” This poem opens (*) “I chopped down the house that you had been saving to live in next / summer.” For 10 points, name this Kenneth Koch poem which parodies the title author’s “This Is Just To Say.”

ANSWER: “Variations on a Theme by William Carlos Williams”

13. This poem opens “Out of me unworthy and unknown / The vibrations of deathless music” This poem’s speaker declares “Bloom forever, O Republic, / From the dust of my bosom!” One man is wedded to this poem’s title character “not through union, / But through separation.” The dead title character of this poem describes her lover as “the beneficent face of a (*) nation / Shining with justice and truth” and quotes him in the line “With malice toward none, with charity for all.” For 10 points, name this Edgar Lee Masters poem about a woman from Spoon River who was apocryphally Abraham Lincoln’s first love.

ANSWER: “Anne Rutledge”

14. The middle of this poem illustrates an image of “the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain... / moving across the landscapes, / over the prairies and the deep trees.” The speaker of this poem instructs the addressee “you only have to let the soft animal of your body / love what it loves.” At the end of this poem, the title creatures “over and over [announce] your place / in the family of things.” The speaker of this poem assures “whoever you are, no matter how lonely, / the world offers itself to your imagination, / calls to you like [the title animals]”. For 10 points, name this poem which opens “You do not have to be (*) good,” written by Mary Oliver.

ANSWER: “Wild Geese”

15. NOTE TO PLAYERS: Description acceptable. In the poem this character appears in, he is described as knowing “human folly like the back of his hand” and being “greatly interested in armies and fleets.” The first line of that poem oxymoronically claims “Perfection, of a kind, was what [this character] was after.” That poem declares that “when [this character] laughed, respectable (*) senators burst with laughter, / And when he cried the little children died in the streets.” For 10 points, name this unnamed leader from a short W. H. Auden “epitaph.”

ANSWER: the Tyrant from “Epitaph on a Tyrant” [accept Adolf Hitler]

16. Allen Ginsberg features in the background of this song’s music video which contains the singer holding cue cards of words from the song including “SUCKCESS” with a “K” and “THE VANDALS TOOK ALL THE HANDLES.” This song’s singer warns “Look out kid, they keep it all hid.” in this song’s final verse. The singer opens this song with the lines “Johnny’s in the basement, mixin’ up the medicine / I’m on the pavement, thinkin’ about the government.” For 10 points, name this proto-rap “blues” by Bob Dylan, featured on the album (*) *Bringing It all Back Home*.

ANSWER: “Subterranean Homesick Blues” [accept “Subterranean Homesick Blues” after “blues”]

17. The cover of Christan Bok's book *Eunoia* is based on the first line of this poem, for which he wrote a homophonic translation. One of the title concepts of this poem is likened to "peace of the furrows / which alchemy prints on broad studious foreheads." Another concept in this poem is called a "velvety jacket of brilliant flies / which buzz around cruel smells." The final title concept of this poem is described as "the (*) Omega! the violet ray of [His] Eyes!" This poem's speaker claims to tell of the "mysterious origins" of the title concepts. A black, E white, I red, U green, O blue opens – for 10 points – what Arthur Rimbaud poem?

ANSWER: "Vowels"

18. *NOTE TO PLAYERS: A description of the first line of this poem is acceptable until mentioned.* The speaker of this poem instructs the addressee to "confuse them so as not to know them all, / so that no enemy may cast an evil eye" by knowing a certain number. The addressee of this poem is told to value "rumors of... old men... at just one penny." The speaker reminds the addressee of this poem about the fleeting nature of their relationship by saying "when our brief light has set, / night is one long everlasting sleep." The speaker of this poem asks his lover to (*) "give me a thousand kisses, a hundred more." For 10 points, name this Carmen by Catullus which opens "Let us live, my Lesbia, and let us love."

ANSWER: Catullus Carmen 5 [accept "Vivāmus, mea Lesbia, atque amemus" or "Let us live, my Lesbia, and let us love" or clear knowledge equivalents; prompt on Carmen 5 until "Catullus"]

19. This poem's speaker contemplates buying "Hesiod, translated by Richmond Lattimore or / Brendan Behan's new play or *Le Balcon* or *Les Negres* / of Genet" but decides on buying "a little Verlaine / for Patsy" The narrator of this poem describes asking for a "carton of Gauloises" and a "carton / of Picayunes" before seeing a "NEW YORK POST" cover with the title character's face on it. This poem opens "12:20 in New York a Friday / three days after Bastille day" The title woman of this poem "whispered a (*) song along the keyboard / to Mal Waldron and everyone and I stopped breathing." For 10 points, name this Frank O'Hara poem about the death of Billie Holiday.

ANSWER: "The Day Lady Died"

20. The fifth stanza of this poem concludes "poor life is indolent / And expectation always violent." This poem which depicts the end of the author's relationship with Marie Laurencin somberly declares "the past remains the past / Love remains lost." The speaker of this surrealist poem says "must I be reminded / Joy came always after pain" before repeating the two-line refrain (*) "Let night come on bells end the day / The days go by me still I stay." For 10 points, name this Guillaume Apollinaire poem about a structure which spans the Seine.

ANSWER: "Mirabeau Bridge"