

Logomachy

Questions by Will Nediger

Tiebreaker questions

1. A purported one of these terms, “feamyng” [feeming], is actually a ghost word resulting from a series of misreadings over the course of centuries. More than a thousand of these words are listed in a book by the host of *Inside the Actors Studio*, James Lipton. Another list of these words is found in Dame Juliana Berners’ essay in the 15th-century text *The Book of Saint Albans*. By extension, one of these terms can also mean an informal (*) briefing held by the White House press secretary. These words are also called “terms of venery,” where “venery” means “hunting.” One of these terms was coined in the Narnia series as a pun on the Chaucer title *Parliament of Fowls*. “Exaltation,” “bevy,” and “murder” are examples of these words that apply to birds. For 10 points, name these words that refer to groups of animals.

ANSWER: collective nouns [or nouns of assembly; accept terms of venery before “venery”; prompt on descriptive answers like “words for groups of animals”]

2. An elegy for this author titled “Cuthbert and the Otters” says “I cannot thole the thought of [this author] dead” in reference to this poet’s fateful rediscovery of the word “thole.” This poet, who was born on a farmhouse called Mossbawn, used the dialectal word “bawn” to describe the main setting of a poem. In the essay “Feeling into Words,” this poet discusses his collection *Door into the Dark* and quotes his own lines about “the cold smell of (*) potato mould, the squelch and slap of soggy peat.” A 1999 work by this poet uses the word “so” with a period to translate the opening word *hwæt*. For 10 points, what author who used his native Northern Irish dialect in his translation of *Beowulf* also wrote “Death of a Naturalist”?

ANSWER: Seamus (Justin) Heaney (Heaney’s rediscovery of “thole,” a word he heard in his childhood, inspired him to translate *Beowulf*.)

3. A Latin proverb about members of this profession was attributed to the painter Apelles by Pliny the Elder, and is the source of the word “ultracrepidarian” for a person who gives opinions on topics outside of their range of knowledge. In an expression saying that members of this profession should “stick to their last,” the word “last” refers to a tool used by these people. The word (*) “cordwainer” refers to a specific type of this profession. People in this profession create components like vamps, welts, eyestays, and eyelets. A word for a member of this profession can also refer to a dessert consisting of a fruit filling covered with a layer of pastry, similar to a crisp or crumble. For 10 points, name these people who create objects like loafers and sneakers.

ANSWER: shoemakers [or cobblers; accept descriptions of people who make shoes]

4. Numerous articles have pointed out that this slang word is spelled the same as a Danish word for poop. A Twitter account whose name references usages of this word has a profile picture that is a word cloud shaped like a thumbs-up. Chris Kelly wrote “nothing says timeless like a song with [this word] in the title and Miley Cyrus on the hook” in a review of the Pharrell [fuh-REL] Williams album *Girl*, which includes a single in which this word follows (*) “come get it.” A Twitter account that mocks corporations trying to sound like teenagers is named for “brands saying” this word. An oft-repeated false etymology states that this word is an acronym whose middle letter stands for the word “anyone.” For 10 points, name this three-letter term of endearment that originated in Black communities.

ANSWER: bae [accept Brands Saying Bae]

5. A character created by this author contrasts Newman's use of the word "detain," as in "detained in the full company of saints," with "the use of the word in the marketplace," as in "I hope I am not detaining you." A commemorative coin released in 2013 accidentally added the word "that" to a quote by this author about the "ineluctable modality of the visible." A character created by this author corrects a (*) dean's use of the word "funnel" to refer to an object more properly called a "tundish." This author stylistically recapitulated the history of English writing in a chapter called "Oxen of the Sun." A novel by this author ends with the word "the," which is implicitly followed by the novel's first word, "riverrun." For 10 points, name this author of *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and *Ulysses*.

ANSWER: James (Augustine Aloysius) Joyce