

2022 Americana theme packet for Festivus written by Jonathan Magin

1. A love triangle in this novel involves Brand, an experimental novelist whose writing consists entirely of blank pages. The protagonist of this novel repeatedly listens to Warren Beasley, who delivers delirious late-night Joycean monologues on his radio show *Death is Just Around the Corner*. Its protagonist goes on a road trip with the experimental artist Sullivan in order to make a movie consisting of scenes from his life, centering on his Oedipal attraction to his mother. This novel's opening section is an office comedy about the life of advertising executive David Bell. After writing this 1971 novel, its author followed it up by writing a novel about Gary Harkness, a football player for Logos College obsessed with nuclear war. For 10 points, name this debut novel by Don DeLillo.

ANSWER: **Americana**

2. *The Chronic*'s track "Deez Nutz" samples a joke told by this actor right after a prank call by Snoop Dogg. In one movie, a character played by this actor assembles an anti-PCP alliance he calls "Attack the Wack." This actor financed his first movie thanks to the success of his raunchy comedy album *Eat Out More Often*. He often cast Lady Reed in his movies, which feature his trademark rhymed toasts about folklore heroes like Shine and the Signifying Monkey. His roles include Tucker Williams, a nightclub owner who constantly shouts "Put your weight on it," and a former prisoner who uses his all-girl army of kung-fu killers to take down his enemy Willie Green. Eddie Murphy starred in a 2019 biopic about this actor, best known for starring in a 1975 film as the title pimp. For 10 points, name this actor who starred in films like *The Human Tornado*, *Disco Godfather*, and *Dolemite*.

ANSWER: Rudy Ray **Moore**

3. A woman with this last name taught Latin and Greek to future senator George Frisbie Hoar, married Ralph Waldo Emerson's uncle Samuel, and lived for decades at an estate Nathaniel Hawthorne nicknamed the Old Manse. An American author with this last name drew on Otto Ammon's theories to classify three different racial types: the long-headed, blond Teutonic, the short-headed, brunette Alpine, and the long-headed, brunette Mediterranean. That economist with this surname wrote *The Races of Europe*, whose tripartite division of races inspired Madison Grant's even more racist book *The Passing of the Great Race*. An American with this surname relied on Charles Anderson Dana to run a community he founded on the Fourierist principles of "universal unity." A cartoonist with this surname infuriated Americans by drawing a panel observing that the United States had no national anthem, leading to "The Star-Spangled Banner" becoming the official anthem in 1931. For 10 points, identify this surname shared by George, who founded the utopian community Brook Farm, and Robert, the cartoonist of the series "Believe It or Not!"

ANSWER: **Ripley** [or Sarah Alden **Bradford**; or Sarah Alden Bradford **Ripley**; or William Z. **Ripley**; or George **Ripley**; or LeRoy Robert **Ripley**]

4. An adaptation of this novel was the first new opera commissioned by the Lyric Opera of Chicago's initiative Towards the 21st Century. Robert Altman co-wrote the libretto for that adaptation of this novel, and directed a PBS documentary that combines footage of that opera with passages from this novel read by Studs Terkel. This novel inspired a 1992 opera composed by William Bolcom and a film which notoriously interrupts a romantic scene with the intertitle "Let's go over and sit on the sewer." In the opening scene of a movie adaptation of this novel, the main character gets revenge on a miner who smacks a bird out of his hand by throwing him off a ravine. Irving Thalberg drastically cut the number of scenes in a movie based on this novel, which ends with a scene in Death Valley where the main character is left handcuffed to the corpse of Marcus Schouler. For 10 points, name this book adapted into the Erich von Stroheim film *Greed*, a novel about a San Francisco dentist by Frank Norris.

ANSWER: McTeague

5. In a movie filmed in this state, a viewer fast-forwards through commercials while watching the local news in the 1980s before watching Frank Stewart investigate the supposedly haunted Webber House. A director from this state, Chris LaMartina, filmed *WNUF Halloween Special* there. A director from this state published the special effects magazine *Cinemagic* and is the subject of the documentary *Blood, Boobs, & Beast*. Actors wearing terrible rubber monster costumes wander aimlessly about this state's woods in movies like *Nightbeast* and *The Galaxy Invader*, directed by this state's native son Don Dohler. Another movie set in this state was the first film directed by Daniel Myrick and Eduardo Sánchez, and includes a scene where a character reads about a ritual mass murder at Coffin Rock. That movie, which ends with one of its characters standing motionless in a corner, is set in this state's town of Burkittsville. For 10 points, name this state, the setting of *The Blair Witch Project*.

ANSWER: Maryland

6. After the San Francisco Opera House asked this author what he would take for forty nights in California, he immediately telegraphed back "Brandy and water." In a story by this author, a "big burly fellow" takes umbrage at a wax figure of Judas at a display of the Last Supper, and pummels it until its head caves in. While editing the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, this author created his most successful character, a fictional traveling showman from Baldinsville. This author's biggest fan, Abraham Lincoln, read his story "Outrage in Utiky" to his Cabinet before telling them about the Emancipation Proclamation. This author delivered wildly successful lectures such as "The Babes in the Wood" with perfect deadpan, which inspired Mark Twain's comic lectures. For 10 points, name this pseudonym of Charles Farrar Browne, the most prominent American humorist of the 1860s.

ANSWER: Artemus Ward [or Charles Farrar Browne before mentioned]

7. This word names the National Education Policy Center's annual award for the worst, most shoddy education report conducted by a think tank. In 1920, H. L. Mencken returned to the *Baltimore Evening Sun* with a column describing politics as a carnival of this word. This word originated after Congressman Felix Walker delivered an incredibly long, rambling, most irrelevant speech during the debate whether to admit Missouri as a free or slave state in 1820, and justified himself by saying he needed to make a speech for his North Carolina county. This word titles a book analyzing American hoaxes and plagiarists written by *New Yorker* poetry editor Kevin Young. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, "hokum" is a combination of "hocus pocus" and this word. Henry Ford notoriously claimed that "history is more or less" this word. For 10 points, name this American slang term that means "insincere political speech" or "hogwash."

ANSWER: **bunk** [or **bunkum**; or **buncombe**]

8. A Sterling Brown poem named for this song with ends with a half-wit who "liked to pull wings off living butterflies" yowling hilariously after inciting a lynching. Cyd Charisse dances out this song's plot as Sammy Davis, Jr. sings it in the movie *Meet Me in Las Vegas*. According to Cecil Brown, this song was inspired by the 1899 murder of Allen Britt in the St. Louis neighborhood of Chestnut Valley. Most versions of this song feature a bartender who reluctantly describes an affair with a woman sometimes called Alice Pryor or Alice Fry, but more commonly named Nellie Bly. Lindsay Lohan sings Garrison Keillor's improvised lyrics to this song at the climax of the movie *A Prairie Home Companion*. The most famous versions of this song feature the refrain "He was her man / But he done her wrong," and begin with a verse exclaiming "O lordy how they did love!" For 10 points, name this American murder ballad about two title lovers.

ANSWER: "**Frankie and Johnny**"

9. A standard device used in this activity was invented by a Cincinnati watchmaker named Graves, and consisted of a rectangle made of "German silver" with a window on top and a tiny slit on the front. According to John Neville Maskelyne's book *Sharps and Flats*, people would try to get an advantage at this activity using a "needle-tell" or "sand-tell" box. This activity typically involved a "casekeeper," a monitor who used an abacus-like device called a "casekeep," as well as an armed lookout. In the 19th century, participating in this activity was called "bucking the tiger," and streets where you could find this activity were nicknamed "tiger alley." In Thackeray's novel *Barry Lyndon*, Barry helps the Chevalier de Balibari cheat aristocrats in this activity, which featured a "banker" and a layout depicting painted versions of 13 cards. For 10 points, name this French card game which was the most popular form of gambling in the Western United States during the 19th century.

ANSWER: **faro** [prompt on "gambling," "playing cards," or "cards"; do not accept **poker** or **blackjack**]

10. William Gaddis, who loathed this book with the hatred of ten thousand suns, portrayed Mr. Pivner studying this book while preparing to meet his son Otto in Part II of *The Recognitions*. This book, which insists “I am not advocating a bag of tricks. I am talking about a new way of life,” summarizes the Socratic method as asking questions which produce a “yes, yes” response. Charles Manson, who obsessively read this book in prison, used this book’s principles to recruit young girls to his “Family.” British oaf Toby Young imitated this book’s title for his memoir about his inability to succeed in the New York publishing industry. emphasizes the three Cs, “don’t criticize, condemn, or complain,” illustrates its points with short, breezy anecdotes about figures like Abraham Lincoln, and lays out principles such as “Be a good listener” and “Make the other person feel important.” It was a bestseller in 1936 when it was compiled from its author’s course on public speaking. For 10 points, name this self-help book by Dale Carnegie.

ANSWER: **How to Win Friends and Influence People**

11. In 1941, music professor Helene Stratman-Thomas began traveling through this state to record its folk music. The play that won the 1921 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Miss Lulu Bett*, was inspired by Zona Gale’s experiences growing up in a small town in this state. Gene Shepard invented a cryptid in this state that supposedly had “the head of a frog, the grinning face of a giant elephant, thick short legs set off by huge claws, the back of a dinosaur, and a long tail with spears at the end.” Along with Rhode Island, this is the only state whose residents call water fountains “bubblers.” Around Christmas, residents of this state traditionally eat a “cannibal sandwich” consisting of rye bread topped with raw beef and raw onions. The Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey circuses were founded in this state’s towns of Delevan and Baraboo. This is the home state of the hodag, as well as delicacies like Stella’s hot and spicy cheese bread and the restaurant chain Culver’s. For 10 points, name this home state of serial killers Ed Gein and Jeffrey Dahmer.

ANSWER: **Wisconsin**

12. A company named for this device created national demand for it by training salesmen known as the “American Selling Force” using a sales bible known as its namesake “Primer.” After graduating from college, Charles Kettering’s first job was inventing an electric motor for this device. A company named for this device designed the first “daylight factories,” buildings with floor-to-ceiling glass windows that provided light and fresh air. IBM founder Thomas Watson became one of the top executives for a company that sold this device before being fired by its CEO, John H. Patterson. In 1879, this device was patented by Dayton saloon owner James Ritty. In the first half of the 20th century, racist nicknames for this device included the “Scotch piano” and “Jewish piano.” Most modern businesses now use a POS system instead of one of these devices, which typically included pop-up flags with numbers printed on them. For 10 points, name this device that keeps track of a company’s sales transactions.

ANSWER: a **cash register** [or a **till**; accept **National Cash Register**]

13. The Katharine Hepburn movie *Pat and Mike* is a thinly-veiled depiction of this celebrity's marriage. During the 1950s, this celebrity carefully hid her lesbian relationship with Betty Dodd, who had to present herself to the public as this celebrity's protege. This celebrity unsuccessfully attempted to break into vaudeville by playing the harmonica while running on a treadmill. This celebrity's career was managed by her husband, a wrestler nicknamed "The Crying Greek from Cripple Creek." After being diagnosed with colon cancer, this celebrity wore a colostomy bag while winning the 1953 U.S. Open by 12 strokes. While employed at the Employers Casualty Insurance Company of Dallas, she broke four world records at the 1932 AAU championships, earning more points than the entire second-place team. An Associated Press poll named this co-founder of the LPGA the world's greatest woman athlete of the first half of the 20th Century. For 10 points, name this legendary female athlete nicknamed "Babe."

ANSWER: Mildred Ella "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias [or Mildred Ella "Babe" Didrikson]

14. The last chapter of this book is punctuated by the repeated all-caps line "I AM HE THAT ACHES WITH AMOROUS LOVE." A chapter of this book declares "The essential American soul is hard, isolate, stoic, and a killer. It has never yet melted," and contrasts "Actuality," represented by "My Hotel" and "My Humble Self," with "Wish Fulfillment" represented by "The Wigwam." Its first chapter, "The Spirit of Place," argues that the works it analyzes express the displacement caused by "shifting over from the old psyche to something new." This book's chapter on Benjamin Franklin calls his list of 13 virtues a "barbed wire moral enclosure" created to produce the "dummy of a perfect citizen" out of hatred for Europe. Published in 1923, it includes essays about Hector St. John Crèvecoeur's idealization of Nature, the "diabolic undertone" of *The Scarlet Letter*, and the doom portended by *Moby-Dick*, and concludes with a chapter about Walt Whitman. For 10 points, name this analysis of 18th and 19th century authors from the United States written by D. H. Lawrence.

ANSWER: Studies in Classic American Literature

15. Louise Meriwether's first novel is named for a man working in this industry. A woman who became rich from this industry scandalously married Sufi Abdul Hamid, an Anti-Semitic activist known as "Black Hitler." A man who made his fortune from this industry funded many of the writing contests of the magazine *Opportunity*. People who became wealthy from this industry were nicknamed "queens" and "kings," and included Stephanie St. Clair and Casper Holstein. In his autobiography, Malcolm X recounted working in this industry alongside men like West Indian Archie. During the Great Depression, St. Clair was the most prominent person in this industry to resist its attempted takeover by Dutch Schultz. This industry, which was commonly called "policy," exploded in popularity when it began using the daily published figures of the clearing house bank totals. This industry employed workers known as "runners" to make collections. For 10 points, name this type of lottery incredibly popular in black communities like Harlem in the first half of the 20th century.

ANSWER: playing the numbers [or policy before mentioned; prompt on "gambling" or "lottery"]

16. This song was created by updating the lyrics to its composer's earlier song "My Loving Baby." This is the first song Daffy Duck performs for casting agent Porky Pig in the Looney Tunes short "Yankee Doodle Daffy." It was originally composed as a Viennese waltz, until Lottie Gee insisted on performing it as a lively one-step. In a musical, this song is performed by Jessie Williams after she learns that the corrupt Steve Jenkins is going to be appointed mayor of Jintown. This song proclaims "the heavenly blisses / Of his kisses / Fills me with ecstasy," and describes a man as being "Sweet just like chocolate candy / and just like honey from the bee." Noble Sissle wrote the lyrics to this song, which was composed by Eubie Blake and became the most popular hit from the musical *Shuffle Along*. For 10 points, name this song used in the election of 1948 as the campaign song of Harry Truman.

ANSWER: "**I'm Just Wild About Harry**"

17. In 1995, a scholar with this last name completed a new English translation of Durkheim's *Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. That scholar with this last name wrote an imaginary conversation between Durkheim and W.E.B. DuBois, and analyzed how the millennial Watchtower Movement threatened authorities in her book *Revival and Rebellion in Colonial Central Africa*. A historian with this last name drew on Edmund Morgan's research to show that slavery only supplanted indentured servitude in Virginia when longer lifespans made it economically feasible to buy a slave for life in her article "Slavery, Race and Ideology in the United States of America." A sociologist with this surname wrote an essay comparing the "invisible ontology" underlying both witchcraft and belief in racial differences. Two academics with this surname collaborated on a book which argues that racist actions impose the artificial category "Race" as a supposedly inherent quality of existence. For 10 points, identify this surname shared by sociologist Karen and historian Barbara, sisters who collaborated on the book *Racecraft*.

ANSWER: **Fields** [or Karen **Fields**; or Barbara **Fields**]

18. This politician lost a congressional race because he supported a statewide cattle dipping program to kill ticks, causing him to lose support from farmers who believed the dip would poison their cattle. In a scandal, this politician was caught hiding in a barn attempting to evade a subpoena from a secretary suing his close friend Lee Russell. After this politician was elected Governor, an opposition newspaper wrote that the golden eagle on the dome of the state capitol building should be replaced by a "puking buzzard." Chester Morgan's biography *Redneck Liberal* describes how this politician was derisively nicknamed "the prince of the peckerwoods." In 1930, he caused a scandal by unilaterally firing three college presidents and 54 college professors, resulting in those schools losing their accreditation. This protege of James K. Vardaman refused to speak to the other Senator from his state, Pat Harrison, and became so hated for his virulent racism that the Senate held hearings about refusing to seat him in 1946. For 10 points, name this politician who came to symbolize unhinged white supremacy in the 1930s and 40s, a Governor and Senator from Mississippi nicknamed "the Man."

ANSWER: Theodore "the Man" **Bilbo**

19. An author with this first name wrote a science fiction novel about a journey to the North Pole which climaxes with a trip through the Earth's core that finds tiny moon people, a reanimated Abraham Lincoln, and an omnipotent dual-gender deity. An author with this first name wrote a dystopian satire sometimes credited as the inspiration for *Looking Backward*, framed as letters from a Swedish visitor to New York Socialistic City in 2050. An author with this first name wrote a popular 1845 comedy that contrasts the superficial, European-obsessed women of the Tiffany family with the homespun wisdom of Adam Trueman. 19th century women with this first name wrote the novels *ArctiQ* and *The Republic of the Future* and the play *Fashion*, and respectively had the last names Adolph, Dodd, and Mowatt. An African-American author with this first name included her essays "What Are We Worth?" and "Woman Versus the Indian" in an 1892 collection of black feminist thought. For 10 points, identify this first name of the author of *A Voice from the South*, whose other two names were Julia Cooper.

ANSWER: Anna [or Anna Adolph; or Anna Dodd; or Anna Mowatt; or Anna Julia Cooper]

20. Samuel Barber composed variations on this song for the third movement Allegretto of his piano piece *Excursions*. A novel named for a line from this song ends with the line "From here on in I rag nobody." That novel named for a line from this song chronicles how Bruce Pearson's terminal diagnosis of Hodgkin's disease changes pitcher Henry Wiggin and the rest of the New York Mammoths. The lyrics and melody of this song were based on "The Unfortunate Lad," which Brendan Gleeson sings in the final section of *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*. A novel named for this song is chronologically the last book in Larry McMurtry's tetralogy *Lonesome Dove*. In the first verse of this song, the singer spies a young man "wrapped in white linen as cold as the clay." Mark Harris's novel *Bang the Drum Slowly* is named for a verse in this song where that man requests "Play the dead march as you carry me along." For 10 points, identify this folk ballad about a dying cowboy, named for a city on the border of Mexico and Texas.

ANSWER: "The Streets of Laredo" [or "The Cowboy's Lament"]

21. The second movement of Charles Ives's second symphony opens by quoting a song about a person with this name. That song's chorus begins "The Good Time Coming is almost here! It was long, long, long on the way!" and its opening lyrics describe how a person with this name "was of African birth / And was bought for a bagful of gold." While living in a town of this name in the 1880s, Edward McCabe became the only African-American elected to a statewide office in a northern state. Henry Clay Work wrote an abolitionist song whose title urges a slave of this name to "Wake." This is the name of the only remaining western town established by African Americans during Reconstruction, which was founded by Exodusters in Graham County, Kansas. Jenner opposes a plan by a character with this name to move to Thorn Valley in Robert O'Brien's 1971 book *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*. For 10 points, identify this name shared by a Pharisee mentioned several times in the Book of John.

ANSWER: Nicodemus [or "Wake Nicodemus"]