

## Uncut Gems: Assorted questions, mainly literature, that weren't good enough to go into other packets

By Mike Bentley

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1. An artist who commonly went by this *first* name built his reputation as a genre painter with an ambiguous 1859 painting that could be read as both pro- and anti-slavery titled *Negro Life at the South*. That artist with this first name has his name emblazoned on the entrance of the Met and earned a reputation as the American Rembrandt for his folksy paintings of Lincoln. A man with this *last* name developed a process for making ∞ dry plates in the 1880s and lends his name to a School of Music run by the University of (\*) Rochester. That same man with this surname introduced a wildly popular point-and-shoot device originally targeted at children called the Brownie. For 10 points, give this last name of George, who developed the Kodak camera.

ANSWER: Eastman [accept Eastman Johnson or George Eastman]

2. One of these people hatches a plot that relies on a woman having tattoo where the words "God" and "Love" form a cross. One of these people comes up with a ritual called a Particution in which a ∞ guilty person is kicked to death and then torn apart by dozens shrieking people. Before becoming a full-fledged one of these people, they are sent abroad in pairs on Pearl Girl missions. One of these people writes the (\*) *Ardua Hall Holograph*, a text that details how she schemed to bring about the downfall of Commander Judd. Three of these people who, unusually for their society are taught how to read and write, narrate the 2019 sequel *The Testaments*. For 10 points, name these women whose highest-ranking member is Lydia in Margaret Atwood's novel *The Handmaid's Tale*, known by a familial relation.

ANSWER: Aunts [prompt on women; or Gillead women]

3. One poet remarked that watching goldfinches "Could mean something. It could mean everything" and could be what another poet meant with respect to this phrase. That same poet, Mary Oliver, asked in her poem "Swan" whether the listener had done this after asking "Have you finally figured out what beauty is for?" This phrase titles a dual biography by Rachel Corbett whose elder subject is ∞ Auguste Rodin. In examining this phrase's impact on magazine surveys of celebrities in his book *Better Living Through Criticism*, A. O. Scott explains that it means "you are in a zone beyond the charm of the beautiful or even the terror of the sublime". This phrase immediately precedes the line, "For there is no (\*) place here / that doesn't see you." The original use of this phrase ends a sonnet that begins, "We could never know his astonishing head / where eyes like apples ripened." For 10 points, name this command which ends Rainer Maria Rilke's poem "Archaic Torso of Apollo".

ANSWER: You Must Change Your Life

4. A trustee of the Museum of Modern Art with this surname pushed LBJ to pass civil rights legislation in his capacity as president of the National Council of Churches. A writer with this surname attacked American culture in his travelogue *The Air-Conditioned Nightmare*. A lawyer with this surname filed a 1972 legal challenge against the ∞ reserve clause in his capacity as executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association. A company founded by a man with this surname employed Robert Propst, who invented the cubicle-laden workspace; that man's namesake furniture company also released the (\*) Noguchi table and the Aeron chair. A theologian with this last name analyzed the Book of Daniel to inaccurately predict the world would end in 1843 and inspired the Seventh Day Adventists. The most famous novel by an author of this surname describes the narrator's frequent return visits to the Paris American Express to see if his wife Mona had written him and its graphic sex scenes inspired an lawsuit against Grove Press that overturned most obscenity laws. For 10 points, give this surname of the author of *Tropic of Cancer*.

ANSWER: Miller

**5. Description acceptable. Demi Abejuyigbe has created parody works in this genre, including a song with the lyric, "I'll get up in your grill as if she was a Tauntaun." *Slate's* Jack Hamilton called the best entry in this genre Kool Keith and KutMasta Kurt's "Grandma's Boyee." It doesn't have to do with sports, but one of the earliest examples in this genre was a song subtitled "Whoomp!" by Tag Team that built on an even earlier song in this genre by MC Hammer. One song of this type sampled both Stevie Wonder's "I Wish" and a Kool Moe Dee song and contains cringe-worthy lyrics like "Any damsel that's in distress / Be out of that dress when she meet [the protagonist]." One song of this type was subtitled "Nod Ya Head" and was made by a man who revived this genre in 2019 for a new version of (\*) "Friend Like Me." Will Smith's first Number 1 hit as a solo artist was a song of this type and features references to his character James T. West. For 10 points, name this type of song that summarizes the plot of the preceding film.**

**ANSWER: credits rap [or wrap-up rap; prompt on credits song; prompt on theme song by asking "when does the theme song play?"; prompt on soundtrack song]**

**6. The narrator sees the reclining body of K smiling at him in a giant wave in one story in this collection. This collection includes a story where the narrator imagines himself in the year 11980 as the Poet Laureate of the World of the Poor Aunts. Another story in this collection sees an illustrator who likes to sleep with the wives and girlfriends of his friends violently throw-up whenever he receives a phone call where a mysterious voice speaks his name. In addition to stories like "The Mirror" and "Dabchick", the title story sees the narrator taking his younger cousin to a hospital get his ears examined and is followed by "Birthday Girl". Also including stories like (\*) "Nausea, 1979" and "Tony Takitani", this collection also includes "Firefly" from the author's earlier novel, *Norwegian Wood*. For 10 points, name this 2006 collection of short stories by Haruki Murakami that isn't *After the Quake* or *Men Without Women*.**

**ANSWER: Blind Willow Sleeping Woman**

**7. An essay in *The Atlantic* called this app "a harbinger of dystopia". The company behind this app experimented with another one about lining up celebrity baby photos, and this app was originally envisioned as a promotion for a video app called Hype. The CEO behind this app apologized "for being a jerk" after insisting that *The Daily Beast* didn't have the rights to publish a profile of its most high-profile employee. The CEO of the company behind this app, Rus Yusupov, had earlier worked on Vine. The success of this app, the biggest hit for Intermedia, has led to copycats such as (\*) *G.O.A.T.* and *The Q*. An "After Dark" version of this app was introduced in 2019, and it was originally hosted by Scott Rogowsky. For 10 points, name this app which lets you participate in a live game show.**

**ANSWER: HQ Trivia**

**8. This story's protagonist is reminded of reading the book *Princess Ezalka* by the backwards word of "ezalg". This work's hero gets into an argument with his friend after seeing a paper with this story's title hanging in his apartment. The protagonist of this work devotes himself to science, repeatedly stating, "twice two is four", and finds great displeasure in people who posited that scientific thinking was not a "supreme, timeless ... mode of thought". The protagonist's maid accidentally breaks a two-faced object that he placed in the anteroom, causing him great stress. Erwin gives the protagonist a clay figurine to illustrate the concept of magic to him. For 20 points, name this Hermann Hesse short story where Frederick internalizes the title Gnostic saying.**

**ANSWER: "Within and Without"**

**9. Arne Orenson called into a conference call during this event to announce Marriott's purchase of Starwood. Paul Dugdale directed a concert documentary of a free show the Rolling Stones gave on the Friday after this event to 500,000 people. A speech given at the Gran Teatro in this event was followed by the elderly prima ballerina Alicia Alonso raising her hands in ascent. A former leader wrote an editorial the week after this event criticizing one man's invocation of a**

**shared slave heritage, noting how his country had helped topple white regimes in Africa.**

**During this event, the first of its type since (\*) 1928, two world leaders attended an exhibition baseball game featuring the Tampa Bay Rays at the Estadio Latinoamericano. One participant in this event declared, "I have come to bury the last remnant of the Cold War in the Americas". For 10 points, name this event where a former US president visited a country then ruled by Raul Castro.**

ANSWER: Barack **Obama's Cuba** Visit [prompt on Cuba thaw]

**10. This novel's narrator ends one relationship after he discovers that the Hungarian maid that he's sleeping with, Julia, stole jewelry from his mother. That same narrator falls in love with a woman who enters a convent and dies in Central America who had earlier assisted him playing the music for silent films. The subjects of this novel were previously written about in Franz Lidz's history, *Ghostly Men* and Marcia Davenport's "My Brother's Keeper". One character in this novel builds a Model T inside the house in which it is set and had earlier been gassed during World War I. Near the end of this work, the narrator befriends a French journalist named Jacqueline Roux who helps him deal with his growing deafness; like his namesake, that character was already blind. The protagonists of this novel live in a "labyrinth of hazardous pathways, full of obstructions and many dead ends" in a brownstone on Fifth Avenue. It was the penultimate novel by the author of *Andrew's Brain*, *Billy Bathgate* and *Ragtime*. For 20 points, name this 2009 E. L. Doctorow novel centering on the titular Collyer brothers.**

ANSWER: ***Homer & Langley***

**11. Jean-Claude Lebensztejn wrote a book that traces depictions of this action in art back to the 13th century and identifies the woman performing this action in Gauguin's *Te Poipoi* as the last "innocent" depiction of it. The two figures with their back to the viewer in the background of Roger van der Weyden's *Saint Luke Drawing the Virgin* are looking at a man performing this action in the distance. The Latin term  $\approx$  puer mingens refers to depictions of young boys performing this action. Andres (\*) Serrano created a controversial image of the crucifixion where he performed this title action on it. An object traditionally used in performing this practice was turned on its side for Marcel Duchamp's readymade *Fountain*. For 10 points, name this action often being done by Cupids in sculptures.**

ANSWER: **peeing** [or **urinating**; or **pissing**]

**12. This story opens with a discourse on marriages "which the imagination ... cannot conceive". Herr Wditznagel brings in a bunch of students to perform "negro dances" in this story, while Herr Hildebrandt does impressions of men like Bismarck and Goethe. The title of this story comes from a polka which contains lines like, "I can polka until I am dizzy, / I can waltz with the best and beyond". One character in this story is having an affair with a musician named Alfred Lautner. The stout lawyer at the center of this story is made to wear a satin baby frock while his wife Amra plays the piano at a large party in this story. For 20 points, name this Thomas Mann short story where Christian Jacoby dies while performing the title song and dance number.**

ANSWER: "***Little Lizzy***"

**13. For an appearance on *Jimmy Kimmel*, this politician was joined by fellow harmonica player John Popper. Barack Obama credits this man as being the first major non-Illinois politician to endorse his presidential bid, and the mothers of both Obama and this man grew up in El Dorado, Kansas. This man entered a Lieutenant Governor race after Katie  $\approx$  Couric's sister, Emily, developed pancreatic cancer and was unable to serve. He won a mayoral election in a majority-black city after persuading his African American rival Rudy McCollum, Jr. to drop out of the race. This man served as head of the DNC in the disastrous 2010 midterm elections for the Democrats. He was the first Senator to give a speech on the Senate Floor in (\*) Spanish owing to the Spanish he learned at a Jesuit mission in Honduras. Elaine Quijano moderated a debate between this man and Mike Pence. For 10 points, name this 2016 running mate of Hilary Clinton.**

ANSWER: Tim **Kaine** [or Timothy Michael **Kaine**]

14. This story opens with the protagonist, a young widow, deciding whether she wants to attend the opera or to attend one of Livray's plays. The protagonist meets her love interest, who she first sees escorting her friend to a buffet, after touching his elbow in the coat closet. This work's protagonist imagines that a stroller in a large photo of Biarritz in her room is really an image of her lover. The heroine of this story bursts into tears when she hears a phrase from *Die Meistersinger* that she had previously heard at a party held at Princess A--'s. The protagonist's friend Genevieve writes a letter to Monsieur de Grumello to try to have him arrange a meeting with a musician who whispered into the protagonist's ear to meet him at 5 Rue Royale. For 20 points, name this Marcel Proust short story where the title woman spends the title time period pining for Monsieur de Laleande.

ANSWER: "The Melancholy Summer of Madame de Breyves"

15. One character in this novel is saved from a mob of skinheads outside of the Wenceslas-Mockingbird School for girls, a prep school where he used to teach, by a transvestite named Venus de Nylon. That character is a lover of an artist who leaves behind a work called Evidence with gallery owner Bruno Augenblick. Near the end of this novel, shock jock radio host Dr. Zig Zigler describes finding a pigeon in the station bathroom. Two interludes in this novel take the form of a magazine article written by "National Magazine Award Finalist Richard Groskoph". The antagonist of this novel is referred to as the "Demon Brother". This novel's title comes from a punk record recorded by the black sheep son of the Hamilton-Sweeney family, Billy Three-Sticks. This novel's plot is driven by the shooting in ≈ Central Park of a daughter of a fireworks manufacturer named Sam Cicciaro and ends during the 1977 New York City blackout. For 15 points, name this lengthy 2015 debut novel by Garth Risk Hallberg.

ANSWER: City on Fire

16. Language and country required. For instance, we're looking for an answer like "Brazilian Portuguese." Newspapers in this language helped popularize a synonym for criminal, a "rowdy sheeter." Craig Jeffrey's sociological work on the youth in the country where this language is spoken takes its title from a phrase coined by speakers of this language, ≈ "Timepass." Neologisms in this language include the words "prepone" and "felicitated." Common phrases originating from this language include "I am (\*) veg." Kalpana Mohan's book on this language examines its unique use of the word "only" as in the phrase "He's like that only!" in the writings of Rohinton Mistry. For 10 points, name this European language that competes as a lingua-franca with Hindi in a former British colony.

ANSWER: Indian English

17. The title character of this novel observes that the difference between the world of the poor and the rich is that things are heavier in the latter. That same title character is fond of chanting "KFC KFC KFC" and, while at a strip club, "Gets your tits fixed, get your tits fixed, get your tits fixed for the boys." Several sections in this novel begin with a riff on the lyrics to "Who Let the Dogs Out?" A massive fight involving the title character's brothers John, Paul, George and Ringo breaks out after he gives an insulting toast at the wedding of Marlin. As a youth, the narrator of this novel writes letters to Aunt Daphne, a columnist who later writes an unflattering piece on its title character and his girlfriend, Threnody. The title character starts appearing in tabloids like the *Daily Mirror* as a "lottery lout" after he wins over one hundred million pounds in the lottery. This novel's narrator hides the fact that he was seduced by his 45-year-old grandmother from his uncle, the title character. For 20 points, name this Martin Amis novel subtitled "State of England."

ANSWER: Lionel Asbo: *State of England*

18. The author of this text fends off critics by stating, "One cannot, at once, claim to be superhuman and then plead mortal error", noting that, "America makes no claim to the banal". This text contains an analysis of "the Dream", noting that "'Good intention' is a hall pass

through history, a sleeping pill that ensures the Dream". In one section of this book, the author "watched the ridiculous pageantry of ≈ flags" following 9/11 but "could see no difference between the officer who killed (\*) Prince Jones and the police who died, or the firefighters who died." In another section of this book, the narrator declares "the problem with the police is not that they are fascist pigs but that our country is ruled by majoritarian pigs". This book is addressed to the author's teenage son, who is warned, "In America, it is traditional to destroy the black body--it is heritage". For 10 points, name this short book by the author of "The Case for Reparations", Ta-Nehisi Coates.

ANSWER: *Between the World and Me*

19. Artist and type of work required. One of these types of work is titled for the "Little Red Glove" that the subject holds to her right arm while another is titled for the subject's "Little Green Cap". Both of those works of this type are exhibited at the Freer Gallery in Washington, D.C. that owns a large collection of the artist's works. One of these types of works, rendered from the back, depicts the title Andalusian wearing a dress of mother of pearl and silver. Multiple works of this kind were made for one of the artist's chief patrons, Frederick Richards ≈ Leyland. In a painting of this type similar in composition to the most famous of these works, the subject is seated with his hat on his lap to the left of the artist's (\*) butterfly signature; that work of this type depicts the historian Thomas Carlyle. The most famous of these works depicts its subject in profile below the artist's design for the Musee d'Orsay and wears a white headdress; that painting of this type is formally titled *Arrangement in Gray and Black No. 1*. For 10 points, name these types of work, one of which was done of the artist's mother.

ANSWER: portraits by James McNeil Whistler [anti-prompt on arrangements by Whistler]

[Note: This is a rejected submission for the 2019 Chicago Open]

20. A mother in this novel successfully prays to an icon of St. Christopher to relieve her son from deadly Navy signal duty in World War II. That same character in this novel discovers that the Nation of Islam's leader W. D. Fard is really a bootlegger who faked his own death on an iced-over lake. Another character in this novel uses the three insurance policies that pay out on his father's restaurant following the 1967 ≈ Detroit Riot to open the Hercules Hot Dog chain. The narrator of this novel is confused by a "crocus" during encounters with a love interest referred to as the "Obscure Object." The narrator's grandparents, secretly (\*) brother and sister, flee from a burning Smyrna at the beginning of this novel and bequeath the narrator "a recessive mutation on my fifth chromosome." A character who goes by both Calliope and Cal narrates, for 10 points, what Pulitzer-winning novel by Jeffrey Eugenides?

ANSWER: *Middlesex*

21. Bunny Christie, Paule Constable, and Finn Ross collaborated on the stage design for this play which cleverly repurposes boxes placed along its cube-like set, which the protagonist frequently draws circles and smiley faces on. The Broadway run of this play placed white covers on seats in the Barrymore Theater which were ≈ prime numbers. Ed, the father in this play, lies to his son and says that his mother has died of a heart attack; instead, she's run off to London. The title of this play derives from the Sherlock Holmes story, "Silver Blaze" and refers to the murder by garden fork of Wellington, a pet owned by Mrs. Shears. The lead of this play is almost killed trying to retrieve Toby, his pet rat, from a subway platform, and ends the play by telling the audience his favorite (\*) math problem. The lead character in this play, Christopher Boone, likely suffers from autism. For 10 points, name this drama which won the Tony for Best New Play in 2015, based on a book of the same name by Mark Haddon.

ANSWER: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

22. NYU doctoral student Thomas Laidley has shown that the rise of luxury apartments built by companies such as ACC have contributed to this problem. In 2019, Donald Trump ordered a department to simplify a program that would eliminate this problem for disabled veterans. An NPR investigation found that small paperwork errors contributed to this problem among

**people who had participated in the ≈ TEACH program. During a 2019 speech, billionaire Robert F. Smith announced that he was (\*) eliminating this problem from those in the audience. An Elizabeth Warren plan promised families making under \$100,000 per year "forgiveness" from this problem. In 2019, Bernie Sanders issued a proposal to "cancel" this problem for some 44 million Americans. Government programs named for Perkins and Stafford have contributed to this problem; those programs are applied for after completing a FAFSA form. For 10 points, name this problem exacerbated by increasing costs of college tuition.**

ANSWER: having **student debt** [prompt on debt; prompt on things like being poor]

[Note: This is a rejected submission for the 2019 Chicago Open]

**23. Jean-Francois Mattei was sacked for failing to promptly return from a vacation to deal with one of these events in France. The Dutch government uses the town of De Bilt to officially define these events. During a 2013 instance of one of these events, the British government unusually sent out gritters to protect road infrastructure. Eric ≈ Klinenberg wrote a 2002 "Social Autopsy of Disaster" about one of these events that attributed many deaths to a fear of criminals breaking in. A year later, one of these events killed some 70,000 Europeans. Neighborhoods with good social ties had many fewer deaths following a 1995 event of this type in Chicago. One of these events that took place in South Eastern (\*) Australia in 2009 was typical in that the power grid was overloaded and widespread blackouts occurred. For 10 points, name these unusually warm spells.**

ANSWER: **heat waves**

[Note: This is a rejected submission for the 2019 Chicago Open]

**24. Stanley Kubrick's name first appeared in the masthead for *Look* magazine for his series of photos on "Life and Love" in this place. Louis Stettner took square format photographs in this location by pretending to be adjusting his camera. For his photobook *Many Are Called*, ≈ Walker Evans hid a camera under his shirt and took candid photos of people in this place. Weegee was able to edge out rival news photographers by using a portable (\*) darkroom to develop photos in this location. Photographer Tseng Kwong Chi captured a not-yet-famous Keith Haring creating chalk drawings in empty ad spaces in this location. Bill Cunningham's photo of Editta Sherman in this place depicts several tags of "Cay 161" on the walls of the vehicle she's traveling in. For 10 points, name this location whose cars were often covered with graffiti in the 1970s.**

ANSWER: New York City **subway** [or New York City **railyards**; subway **trains**; or subway **stations**; prompt on New York]