

**Packet Whose Endgoal is Seeking Everlasting Friends (PWESE Friends)
A.K.A. Albert's Weeb Packet**

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Tossups

1. Before helping create this musical group, one member had originally helped found the Heisei Vocaloid project under the name Zips. That artist and the vocalist of this band found initial success by teaming up with artist Omutatsu to illustrate their videos, which ended up breaking a million views within the first couple weeks of this group's existence. Songs by this group include recently released "Loser (*) Girl" lamenting the pressures of idol life, and their first hit "It's Raining After All", which begins with the English lines "parallel lines are crossing". A more famous song has a motif partially composed of an ascending major scale with the lyrics "ABCDEFGF." For 10 points, name this musical group with a mis-romanized name best known for their song "Compared Child."

ANSWER: **TUYU** (accept **Tsuyu** by saying "wow, you really know your katakana")
<pop>

2. According to legend, Heike crabs are said to still hold the spirits of those who perished in this battle, and a jewel from this battle is said to be enshrined in the Atsuta shrine. During this battle, the turning point came when general Taguchi Shigeyoshi defected, after which the emperor Antoku was drowned (*) by his grandmother. Part of a war that also included the Battle of Kurikara, this battle is recounted in chapter 11 of a book nicknamed the "Japanese Iliad" which discussed the larger Genpei War. The downfall of the Heian emperors, as well as

the Taira clan, was the consequence of what battle that saw the rise of the Minamoto clan, founding the Kamakura shogunate?

ANSWER: Battle of **Dan-o-ura** (accept Battle of **Shimonoseki** by saying “wtf how u know”)
<his>

3. One of this author’s characters is deeply annoyed that an attractive image of a knight was actually an image of Joan of Arc. Another one of this author’s characters fetishizes the urination of a Thai princess and ends up barely escaping a house with a peephole that burns down at the end of that novel. In another novel in that series, Kiyooki (*) catches tuberculosis trying to see Satoko, who is confined to a convent, and in yet another in the same series, Toru tries to commit suicide by drinking wood alcohol. That series’s character of Isao Inuma may have been prophetic in how both him and this author committed suicide via seppuku. The monk Kashiwagi kicks a pregnant woman and tells his companion to “kill the Buddha” in *Temple of the Golden Pavilion*, a novel by, for 10 points, what author of *Confessions of a Mask* and the *Sea of Fertility Series*?

ANSWER: Yukio **Mishima** (accept Kimitake **Hiraoka**)
<lit>

4. A cat in the opening of this series is theorized to represent the main character’s mother while a feather is meant to represent his love interest. Takeshi Aiza and Emi Igawa act as rivals for that character in this series, who show how they developed their grudge in its OVA. The last episode of this anime involves a tear-jerking (*) letter and the revelation of an image of a girl with short blonde hair. In this manga, the main character’s duet with Nagi, playing a version of Tchaikovsky’s Sleeping Beauty for four hands, is contrasted with his love interest’s decaying violin ability. For 10 points, what tragic Seinen manga, anime, and live action movie series chronicles Kousei Arima’s journey through piano playing?

ANSWER: ***Your Lie in April*** (accept ***Kimiuso***; accept ***Shigatsu wa Kimi no Uso***)
<sei>

5. Oukimi rulers during this period seem to invoke the mandate of heaven in inscriptions they left behind, while Chinese immigration accelerated during this period, bringing a group descended from Cao Cao. Although this period is considered the first recorded period of Japanese (*) history, it is also characterized by close cultural relations with the Korean peninsula. Some of the distinctive ruins from this period were added as UNESCO world heritage sites in 2019. This period’s end is considered to be the introduction of Buddhism to Japan, and it began with the rise of the Yamato court. For 10 points, name this period of Japanese history named for its special key-shaped tombs.

ANSWER: **Kofun** Jidai (Prompt on **Yamato** before mention)
<his>

6. In TUYU's "Even Tears Withered", a profession doing this activity is one of the singer's childhood dreams along with being a sports player. Rui, one of the love interests in *Domestic Girlfriend*, dreams of becoming a professional doing this activity, which is set back when a traumatic incident with thugs impares a sense essential for it. Hololive idol Haachama trended hard when she did this activity with a (*) tarantula. In an anime about this activity, Nakiri Erika, daughter of the headmaster, is the love interest of Souma. In that anime, different characters embody different forms of it, such as medicinal forms using herbs and Sichuan forms using spices. For 10 points, name this central activity of *Food Wars*.

ANSWER: **cooking** (prompt on eating and other close equivalents; Accept **baking** and other close equivalents)

<mis>

7. In one movie by this director, Quetzalcoatl is said to have guided the spirits of the dead until humanity matured. Another movie by this director, a short OVA, covers a boy and girl separated by an intergalactic war, a dynamic that is common in other films of his such as *The Place Promised in Our Early Days*. In one of this director's films, an unrequited love is told in three (*) parts, and ends with the title cherry blossoms, as well as a train, blocking the main character's view. In his most famous works, confirmed to be in the same universe, rain and body-swapping are the gimmicks which separate the protagonists. For 10 points, name this director, the "new Miyazaki" of *Weathering for You* and *Your Name*.

ANSWER: Makoto **Shinkai** (accept Makoto **Niitsu**)

<mov>

8. One chapter of this series reveals that two side characters fell in love after one helped the other in a library. A recent string of chapters titled "ten years later" chronicle the love story between a young character and his childhood friend, although these new issues did little to blunt the common criticism that the story lost steam after its climax. In this series's recent anime adaptation (*), white backgrounds with contrasting bright colors appear during important emotional moments, such as when the main characters admit to dating upon the arrival of one's grey haired father. The titular relationship between a nerd who is secretly emo and a popular girl who is secretly a housekeeper is the topic of what manga series by HERO and Daisuke Hagiwara?

ANSWER: **Horimiya** (accept *Hori-san to Miyamura-kun*, but politely remind them that that is the name of the original web series and not the current manga)

<shj>

9. *Description Acceptable*. A recent 2020 spinoff manga of one anime by Yuuko Kakihara centers on a group of characters that seem to have this characteristic. That anime, *Cells at Work*, sees those oversized-light-blue-t-shirt-wearing characters throw fibrin at a hole and move into a wound. According to season two and the manga of *Quintessential Quintuplets*,

Uesugi originally meets the sisters while they have this (*) characteristic. In *Tokyo Ghoul*, Hinami had this condition when both of her parents were murdered by the hunters. Ash Ketchum and Doraemon's friend Nobi are both in this condition. For 10 points, name this condition of being younger than a teenager.

ANSWER: being **children** (accept being **kids** and similar answers; accept being "**lolis**" with a look of absolute disgust)

<shn>

10. A group of spinoff light novels in this franchise follows the first game's deuteragonist's adventures with Yui Samidare. Another spinoff installment is about the protagonist's little sister as they battle the warriors of hope, who are thought to be dead prior to the twist ending of that game. In another game, the twist ending is ironically that they are in (*) a game, but that didn't make the iconic death scenes of this franchise any less grotesque and over-the-top in that third, or fifty third, installment. Hajime Hinata and Chiaki Nanami will never live out their OTP from the second game, because it was revealed in this series's anime that the latter died and the former was a monster. For 10 points, name this mystery video game franchise, about 15 high schoolers forced to maim each other, spilling pink blood, and try to get away with it.

ANSWER: ***Danganronpa*** (accept individual installments like **V3**)

<mis>

11. Yuki Tsuji gave a 2015 TED talk on the aesthetics of this practice, whose most prominent American follower is the actress Marcia Gay Harden. The common Rikku school of this practice is derived from its classic Ikenobo school. Iemotos of this oldest modern school of art in Japan will note that it does not have "ryu" at the end of its name, because it is also considered the most original (*) traditional artform. Much of this school derives its philosophy and fundamental concepts from the Buddhist value of life and Japanese cosmological order, such as how this practice centers around cultivation and uses water to symbolize the surface of the earth. You might correctly guess Hana from *Girls und Panzer* practices this art, because "Hana" is the Japanese equivalent of Chinese "Hua." Coded symbolism and odd numbers are central to, for 10 points, what classical floral Japanese art form?

ANSWER: Japanese **flower arrangement** (accept **Ikebana**, or any sub-school)

<cul>

12. According to this prominent figure, their actual age is somewhere over 9000. One running joke centered on this figure is due to their inability to do basic math, such as with making a 3x3 grid or adding 9 to 10. In one gag, this figure repeatedly fails to obtain a special minecraft fork-shaped tool, while in another, she says the first (*) letter of the alphabet. A running joke of hers is a confusion of the word "shrimp" with a phonetically similar one and she is commonly shipped with a time-travelling detective. In October of 2020, this

persona became the third of her kind to hit 1 million subscribers, making her the most subscribed to hololive member of all time. For 10 points, the chumbuds follow what aquatic English-language Vtuber in a shark hoodie?

ANSWER: Gawr **Gura** (prompt on nicknames like same-chan, apex predator, or city pop shark)
<vtb>

13. The source material for this work sees the main characters attempt to produce a movie for most of the plot, something that was cut from the final version of this work. The soundtrack for this movie, composed by Kensuke Ushio, includes songs like “tre” and it opens with The Who’s “My Generation.” Satoshi is a minor character in this work who is told “don’t meddle in (*) strangers’ business” during this work’s climax. Ueno’s unrequited love makes her lash out at one of the two main characters on a ferris wheel, while the other contemplates jumping off a bridge at the end of this movie’s prologue. For 10 points, what Kyoto Animation movie directed by Naoko Yamada is about the love story between the deaf Nishimiya and former bully Shouya?

ANSWER: A *Silent Voice* (accept the *Shape of Voice*; accept *Koe no Katachi*)
<mov>

14. In one character song from this series, the singer discusses laundry and snacks. Another song, the series opening, has become a meme format, with the different characters getting rapidly zoomed into replaced by ones from other shows. A running gag in this series has increasingly convoluted sequences about two wooden cubes. Characters in this series include the soccer-go (*) club and a girl who only says “pyon!” and “ehhh?” The trio Sucharaka, who are the main characters of this series, includes a punny girl who greets people with “Selamat Pagi!” The mad scientist Nakamura attempts to learn the secret of Hakase’s wind-up robot friend in, for 10 points, what wacky manga-anime series about the escapades in an unnamed high school and the Shinonome lab by Keiichi Arawi?

ANSWER: *Nichijou* (Begrudgingly accept *Everyday*)
<mma>

15. One character who is presumably the daughter of someone in this position apparently crashed at Oozaru Subaru’s house, an action which also included using up the latter’s soap. That character presumably related to someone in this position is apparently 0 years old and associated with sweets. Approximately 10 song covers made by 10 different Vtubers have been made of a song titled after (*) this position, a fact which baffles the writer of this set. Those covers, of a song by Kanaria, contain lines like “left side, right side” and “you are [this position].” By nature of her employment, Shirogane Noel presumably serves someone in this position, as she is a knight. For 10 points, name this regal position, the top of a feudal hierarchy.

ANSWER: king

<vtb>

16. **The ZTV television company and Imuraya confederacy are headquartered in this region's city of Tsu. Landmarks in this region include the world's oldest wooden building and one of the world's oldest lakes. The two largest cities of this region are encapsulated in the saying "while one overspends on clothing, the other overspends on food," while another city is known for an expensive kind of beef. This region's namesake (*) dialect is known for lengthening short vowels and shortening long ones, and for not getting rid of some terminal vowels. Novels like the Tale of Genji and dishes like takoyaki originated in it, while Pokemon Gen Two is based on it. For 10 points, name this southern Honshu region known for its lyrical dialect and cities like Kyoto and Osaka.**

ANSWER: **Kansai** region (accept **Kinki** region)

<geo>

17. **One song named for this color is the ED of an anime in which the main character mistakenly believes he has a crush on Kushieda for the majority of the series. Another song named for this color is an ED for *Your Lie in April*, describing a sunset of this color. Meanwhile, the most recent chapter of a manga series reveals the alternate universe life of the main characters if its (*) central event had happened. That event is stymied at the school festival, the sports festival, and an intersection, where its central figure decided his life was worth living. Those events also occur in the anime version following 5 friends who receive letters from the future and attempt to prevent a suicide, in which the narrator reminisces about a juice box. For 10 points, name this color of non-lemon non-lime citrus.**

ANSWER: **orange** (neg any attempt to give a Japanese answer by saying "lol this color in Japanese is the same as in English, baka")

<mma>

18. **One anime that takes place after one of these events features a comical pet whose name "nuko" was translated as "cut." That pet turned out to be crucial to the plot as it unlocked a building used for one of these events as the main characters, a pair of sisters in a tiny vehicle, attempted to ascend the layers of the world. In another series that takes place after one of these events, *Leidenschaftlich* is the setting for the recipient of a green jewel for which she nearly dies to save. That was because the character received the jewel from the man who trained (*) her to be good at helping in these events, which makes it especially difficult for her to adjust to being an auto memory doll. The three hour movie *In This Corner of the World* takes place during one of these events, ending with the destruction of Hiroshima. For 10 points, *Girl's Last Tour* and *Violet Evergarden* take place after what kinds of events, conflicts between countries and armies?**

Answer: **Wars** (prompt on any similar words like apocalypse)

<sei>

19. **The most recent television releases in this series feature the rival leader Tora Igarashi attempting to seduce one of the main characters. The new season of this series is predicted to cover escapades in England concerning the Walker family. In this show, the manager Satsuki has a crossdressing nephew, including into the costumes necessary for (*) her establishment.** This series's anime opening is "My Secret," which is appropriate considering the premise of the show, a high school president hiding her job. For 10 points, name this manga and anime series following a half-englishman as he attempts to woo an employee at the title kind of cafe.

ANSWER: *Maid-Sama!* (accept *Kaichou wa Meido-Sama!*)

<shj>

20. *Description acceptable.* **In one manga series, a difference in this quantity between two characters leads to her employment with the other characters as Haruhi Fujioka crossdress in a host club to make up for a deficiency in this quantity. It is not hard work or test scores, but a difference in this characteristic is a central theme of *Last (*) Game*.** The deuteragonists of *Garden of Words* probably differ in this attribute since only one of them is employed. Kaguya and Shirogane differ in this quantity, which is why he lives in an apartment and she lives in a mansion. For 10 points, name this quality of a person, the amount of money they make.

ANSWER: income (accept wealth, or other non-mentioned equivalents)

<mma>

Bonuses

1. Answer the following about generations of Hololive, for 10 points each:

[m] Ookami Mio is a member of this non-numbered generation named for the online activity that they do that also contains originally first-generation idol Shirakami Fubuki. Its most famous members are a certain lavender-brown ship between two kemonomimi.

ANSWER: Hololive **Gamers**

[h] Hololive's third generation has received this nickname of reverie and imagination for containing the characters Marine the Pirate, and Noel the Knight.

ANSWER: Hololive **Fantasy**

[e] The Hololive group named for this language has recently obtained a second generation, adding to stars such as Risu the Squirrel more such as Ollie the Zombie. This language's stars might be popular in places such as Jakarta

ANSWER: **Indonesian** (accept **bahasa Indonesia**; accept **Malay**, because they're not totally wrong)

<vtab>

2. Answer the following about cognates, imagined and real, between Japanese and the languages Albert speaks, for 10 points each:

[h] To stay in a house in Japan and to take a picture in Argentina, you end up beginning your predicate with this five or six letter verb infinitive, although in Spanish, the latter part of the verb is conjugated. The Japanese or Spanish version is fine.

ANSWER: **tomar**(u) (accept word forms like **tomarimasu**, **toma**, **tome**, etc.)

[m] Many of you might relate with the fact that studying in Japanese uses the same characters as the word for aimless in Chinese, specifically one composed of the radicals for "without" and "energy" and another meaning "strong." Give either the Chinese or Japanese pronunciation.

ANSWER: **benkyou** or **miǎnqiáng** (begrudgingly accept **benkyoushimasu** or word forms)

[e] The only other language Albert speaks is this language, in which this set is written. About 10% of Japanese is composed of cognates from this language written in katakana.

ANSWER: **English** (accept '**murican**, or in fact any technically right thing like **Australian**)

<lng>

3. Answer the following about the Leporidae family, for 10 points each:

[e] Non-nerds (you see, weeps are not nerds, and yes the reader must read out this parenthetical phrase, including this part) will call members of the leporidae family by this common r-initialed animal, an example of which is idol Usada Pekora.

ANSWER: **rabbit** (accept any genus or binomial taxonomic name of rabbit by saying "but mother frigger, what did I just say?!")

[m] This anime is named for young rabbits, although its deep exploration of adolescent coming of age precludes any moe themes. It recently received a movie in which the main character

travels in time and has to choose between his first love and his current one. The shorter, much less cumbersome name is fine.

ANSWER: *Rascal Does not Dream of **Bunny Girl Senpai*** (accept full name by saying “fellow man of culture!” even if the respondent is female or non-binary; accept ***Seishun Buta Yarō***; accept ***Aobuta***)

[h] Bunny girl senpai’s ED is this song. The version with all 6 main girls singing at once has over a million views on youtube, although since it’s not on Spotify, Albert had to pirate it off of soundcloud.

ANSWER: ***Fukashigi no Carte***

<sei>

4. Let’s say you’re writing a packet after having just finished Genki Beginner 1 and want to flex your knowledge, for 10 points each:

[h] To express your desire to write a question about the Japanese language, you’d attach these three english letters or two hiragana to the end of the -masu stem, and then follow that with desu. In Chinese, the same three letters can describe infants, devices, or extremity.

ANSWER: **tai**

[e] No, you are in fact so enthusiastic, you want to write it down! While you can write down your desire using just hiragana and katakana, it would be confusing to a Japanese person without these Chinese characters that make up a plurality of the formal written language of Japanese.

ANSWER: **kanji** (anti-prompt on kunyomi and onyomi)

[m] You might end off your sentence of enthusiasm with this two letter, one syllable sentence terminator that expresses arrogance or an exclamation of knowledge the listener probably doesn’t know.

ANSWER: **yo**

<lng>

5. Answer the following about a certain Spring month, for 10 points each:

[h] Sangatsu no Phantasia is a popular JPop band whose name translates to [this month’s] Fantasia. The first song in their album *Girl’s Blue, Happy Sad* is named for this month, translating to “I wish [this month] could last forever.”

ANSWER: **march** (prompt on sangatsu by saying “lol, I guess that did take a little brain work, but try again baka”)

[e] *March Comes in Like a Lion* is an emotional manga-anime series that follows Rei Kiriyama, a player of this board game. Unlike Go and Xiangqi, in this game, you can put down pieces you capture from your opponent.

ANSWER: **shogi** (prompt on Japanese Chess)

[m] “Erika” and “British Grenadiers” are common marching songs in this tv show which also contains “Johnny Marching Home” in its soundtrack. That makes sense, since this is an anime about military tanks and schools representing combatants from World War Two.

ANSWER: **Girls und Panzer**

<mis>

6. I don't care what you say, these songs are still hella good even if they didn't become famous this way, for 10 points each, answer the following about meme songs:

[m] This metalcore song on the album *Fantastic Magic* became a meme after some posters decided to play its tragic melody whenever someone flopped in a fail compilation. Originally, it became known for being the theme song for the first season of *Tokyo Ghoul*.

ANSWER: "**Unravel**"

[e] This rap written by Kana Hanazawa that was the opening for *Bakemonogatari* got really famous on the internet after user TMABird made an "everyone's" mashup version of it.

ANSWER: "**Renai Circulation**"

[h] This song, the theme song of the anime *Blend S*, got internet famous when user MowtenDoo posted a marijuana themed parody of it. Interestingly, Doo's decision to give mustaches to the main girls was partially correct, since one of the characters on the show is a trap.

ANSWER: "**Bon Appetit**"

<pop>

7. Does anyone know anything about Japan AFTER world war two?! For 10 points each,

[h] This founder of the Chiba Institute of Technology was the only member of the Japanese imperial family to become prime minister. He served for just 54 days in the aftermath of Japan's surrender in the war.

ANSWER: Prince Naruhiko **Higashikuni**

[e] This political party became prominent in the 1960s, but was sidelined because of the Cold War. Today, this red-emblemmed party plays an important role as an opposition watchdog and advocate for women's participation in government.

ANSWER: **Japanese Communist Party**

[m] This period of time in fin de siecle Japan was an economic recession triggered by a 1992 real estate bubble. As it was marked by low GDP and price growth rates and falling employment and wages, Japan continues to grapple with the effects of this era.

ANSWER: **Lost Decade**

<his>

8. Mmmm. You history nerds were waiting for the Sengoku Jidai bonus weren't you? For 10 points each,

[m] This was the assassin who ended the life of Oda Nobunaga. In the aftermath, this samurai attempted to install himself as the new shogun.

ANSWER: Akechi **Mitsuhide**

[h] Mitsuhide's career was cut short when he was defeated at this battle, sometimes alternatively named for Mount Tenno. In this battle Toyotomi Hideyoshi's forced march managed to successfully surprise Mitsuhide's army and end his life 13 days after the original assassination.

ANSWER: Battle of **Yamazaki** (do not accept the Battle of Mount Tenno)

[e] To ensure that this bonus has a 90% part, I will be asking for the country in which the Sengoku Jidai took place.

ANSWER: **Japan** (accept **Nihon**)

<his>

9. I hope you're a Murakami fan, for 10 points each,

[e] Murakami's most famous novel is this 1987 one, named for a Beatles song and covering the aimless journey of Toru Watanabe. Incidentally, I would also like to include that conquering all lumber provinces in Eu4 as a certain country nets you an achievement named after this book.

ANSWER: **Norwegian Wood** (accept **Norwei no Mori**)

[h] In Norwegian Wood, Toru oscillates between his passionate feelings for the depressive Naoko and the more reciprocal and healthy relationship he has with this girl, a classmate of his. The end of the book has this girl asking "where are you?"

ANSWER: **Midori Kobayashi** (accept either underlined portion)

[m] Altogether, Blair's A team has read a considerable collection of Murakami's works. While Albert read *Norwegian Wood*, Leela has read *IQ84* and Jason has read this three-part 1997 novel, which begins with Toru Okada attempting to find his cat.

ANSWER: **Wind-Up Bird Chronicle** (accept **Nejimakidori Kuronikuru**)

<lit>

10. Answer the following about movies that touched our hearts, for 10 points each:

[h] This Japanese-Chinese collaboration is split into three unrelated stories, all on the theme of food. In one, a boy's memories of unrequited love and his late grandmother are awoken by Hunan noodles.

ANSWER: **Flavors of Youth** (accept **Shikioriori**; accept **Si Shi Qingchun** as long as all the tones are correct)

[e] This 2001 Miyazaki film, one of the highest grossing movies of all time, is nostalgically remembered by most who watch it as emotionally deep, fantastically colorful and wonderfully animated. Its inciting action is the transformation of Chihiro's parents into pigs.

ANSWER: **Spirited Away** (accept **Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi**)

[m] This one-season anime series, based on a light novel series of the same name by Nagomu Torii, follows a glasses-loving half youmu and his spirit warrior love interest. The heart-wrenching movie that concluded the series ends with the two laughing in a flower garden.

ANSWER: **Beyond the Boundary** (Accept **Kyoukai no Kanata**)

11. Japanese island time baby! For 10 points each:

[e] This island, located just outside the city for which it is named, handles flights to the capital of Japan.

ANSWER: **Tokyo Airport**

[h] Oushima and Tajima are famous islands located in this bay in the north of Honshu. Separated from Hokkaido by the Tsugaru and Tairadate straits, this bay's name roughly means "shoreside mystery"

ANSWER: **Mutsu Bay**

[m] A popular domestic vacation spot for Japanese tourists is this southern chain of islands that stretch from Kyushu to Taiwan. While known mostly for an island of WWII fame, the Daitou and Kerama islands are also popular sites in this archipelago.

ANSWER: **Ryukyu** Islands (accept **Nansei** Islands; begrudgingly anti-prompt on **Okinawa**)
<geo>

12. Test your luck with some questions about luck in Japanese culture! For 10 points each:

[h] Some numbers in Japanese have different pronunciations in speech because of their spoken resemblance to words like "death" and "bitter." While one is best known for its unluckiness in China as well, this question will ask you to name all 3.

ANSWER: **four**, **seven**, and **nine** (accept **shi**, **shichi**, and **ku** or **yon**, **nana**, and **kyuu**)

[e] The festival of Tanabata, based on the Chinese Qixi festival, sees boys and girls conduct this activity by writing the results of this activity on pieces of paper. People who perform this activity hope for something good to happen.

ANSWER: **wishing** (accept obvious equivalents)

[m] The inspiration for a suit in *Super Mario Bros 3* and an Animal Crossing landlord are some examples of this racoon-like animal who is considered a symbol of luck, partly because it is always depicted in pre-modern cultural works with massive testicles.

ANSWER: **tanuki** bear

<cul>

13. Answer the following about pop songs in anime, for 10 points each:

[e] This 2010 slice-of-life anime is about a high school girl band who try to make it big has become a cult classic, producing legitimately popular pop songs like Fuwa Fuwa time, ostensibly composed by the main characters Yui, Mio, Ritsu, and Tsumugi.

ANSWER: **K-on!!!!** (exclamation marks necessary)

[m] This anime contains spicy OPs like Deal with the Devil and Kono Yubi Tomare, whose sequences depict the risky, uncomfortable, and violent nature of this series about a gambling high school. Interestingly, it was licensed by Netflix for the US.

ANSWER: **Kakegurui**

[h] This artist is known for her German translations of anime songs like those from *Kakegurui*, as well as *Toradora!* and *Aobuta*. She is also known for her parody of the rap "Sex Tape" she called "Hentai."

ANSWER: **Selphius**

<pop>

14. It's hard to remember artists' names, but we'll try anyway, for 10 points each:

[h] This group is a prolific anime song band, having composed much of the music for *Non Non Biyori* and *Shokugeki no Soma*, as well as the theme song for *Citrus* and *Hanasaku Iroha*.

ANSWER: **Nano.ripe**

[m] This group hit it big with their single "Ghost in a Flower" which became a recurring theme in the 2020 Netflix movie *Whisker Away*. True fans will also love their hit "Tell Me" and their experimental instrumental pieces with names like "7/13."

ANSWER: **Yorushika**

[e] Wow, that was kind of hard, but in my opinion, Japanese band names aren't nearly as bad as some of the ones from this neighboring country, also famous for its own form of Asian pop music. No, not China.

ANSWER: **South Korea** (accept **Kankoku**; do not accept or prompt on Korea, comically accept **North Korea**)

15. Albert doesn't like shounen manga, but he decided to include some questions about it for inclusivity, for 10 points each:

[e] The term "shounen" refers to people of this demographic, contrasted with young adult seinen manga. Age and gender required.

ANSWER: young **teen males** (accept equivalents, prompt on partial answer)

[m] *Tower of God* would be a shounen manga for its focus on world building, adventure, and fight scenes, if it weren't for the fact that it's a Korean series on webtoons, making it actually this kind of comic.

ANSWER: **manhwa**

[h] The third season of *Tokyo Ghoul* and another anime series subtitled "starting life in another world" are named for these two letters, written with a sharp fishhook in katakana or a curvy "ne" in hiragana. A 4-channer might respond with this phrase to a weeb.

ANSWER: **re**

16. There's Vtubers outside of hololive, baka! For 10 points each:

[m] Like Gawr Gura, this English-language Vtuber, known for her chill but anti-gamer persona is also a shark. This hoodie-wearing star chose her name carefully to reflect her connection to hunting, the moon, and chastity.

ANSWER: **Artemis of the Blue** (prompt on partial answer)

[e] This other English-speaking shark, confirmed to be a Wasian in real life, forms the Voms group with friends Tomoshika and Monoe, although they only speak Japanese. She is often made fun of for her tea kettle-like high pitched laugh and her tendency to say "yabai."

ANSWER: Amano **Pikamee**

[h] This mellow illustrator turned vtuber drew herself and tomboy Oozoru Subaru. Her cute red hat and schoolgirl uniform, as well as her tendency to go brutally honest when reading superchats, have given her recent prominence in the vtuber community.

ANSWER: Shigure Ui

17. Answer the following about the work of Aka Akasaka, for 10 points each:

[e] His name rhymes with “Hayasaka”, the popular maid character from this most popular series of his, a romantic comedy seinen manga that has recently been confirmed for a third anime season.

ANSWER: Kaguya Sama: Love is War! (accept either underlined portion; accept Kaguya-sama wa Kokurasetai: Tensai-tachi no Ren'ai Zunōsen)

[m] A rap that hit it big on the internet from *Love is War* is one by this character, the airheaded secretary of Shuchiin’s student council. She is part of a clan famous for dominating the Heian period via the possession of the Senshou and Kanpaku offices.

ANSWER: Chika Fujiwara (accept either underlined part)

[h] The spinoff to *Kaguya Sama: Love is War* is a series following these two girls, who are both obsessed with Kaguya. Both have European names, one sharing her name with the German vice commander in *Girls und Panzer* and the other with a *Kin-iro* mosaic main character. Name both.

ANSWER: Erika Kose and Karen Kino (accept either underlined portion for both)

18. The miscellaneous manga and anime category is doing God’s work, for 10 points each,

[e] It allowed me to shoe-horn in this toy line of fighting spinning tops, that received an anime that continues to feature prominently on saturday-morning Cartoon Network. The Pegasus Galaxy is the version of this tool used by the protagonist of the first series.

ANSWER: Beyblade (give them 5 extra points if they then segue into singing the theme song without prompting)

[h] I can also shove in this 1997 Miyazaki fantasy movie, considered one of his best for its character depth, environmental message, and fluid animation. Despite its name, its main character is Prince Ashitaka as he attempts to heal his poisoned arm.

ANSWER: Princess Mononoke (accept Mononoke-hime)

[m] I don’t even have to name a franchise! These items, called “hanabi” in Japanese, are signature of many Japanese festivals; the attempt to see them with a significant other plays a central role in nearly every romance anime, including a 2017 movie named for them.

ANSWER: fireworks (accept Uchiage Hanabi, Shita kara Miru ka? Yoko kara Miru ka?; comically prompt on hanabi)

19. Answer the following about the Shoujo manga *Aoi Haru Ride*, for 10 points each:

[m] Aoi is Japanese for this color, written with the same character as the Qing dynasty. The author chose the color because it makes up half the Japanese word for youth.

ANSWER: blue (accept mizuiro; laugh while not accepting aoi)

[e] *Aoi Haru Ride* takes place in this city which is also known for Dutch and Portuguese trading during the Tokugawa era.

ANSWER: **Nagasaki**

[h] The main character of *Aoi Haru Ride* is this girl, who changes her persona to be more masculine after getting bullied in primary school. Her decision to choose Kou at the end infuriated the writer of this set.

ANSWER: **Futaba Yoshioka** (accept either underlined portion)

20. Answer the following about bitterness, for 10 points each:

[m] *Shishunki Bitter Change* is a manga about a boy and girl who swap bodies. “Shishunki” is a Japanese-specific term which roughly translates as this period in a young person’s life of rapid mental and physical change.

ANSWER: **puberty** (prompt on **adolescence**)

[h] “Bitter Bitter Sweet” was a song sung by the two love interests of this anime at the end of its first season. Hachiman’s inability to choose between happy Yui, quiet Yukino, headstrong Iroha, and the boy Saika is encapsulated in the lamenting title of this series.

ANSWER: *My Youth Romantic Comedy* **SNAFU** (Accept **My Youth Romantic Comedy is Wrong as I Expected**; accept **Ahari Ore no Seishun Rabukome wa Machigatteiru**; accept **Oregairu**; accept **Hamachi**)

[e] Hori is relieved to hear that boys like bitter chocolate while celebrating this holiday. On this holiday, weeps tend to feel the crushing weight of their life choices as they go single.

ANSWER: **Valentine’s Day**

<mma>