

WHAQ (Washington High Academic Questionfest) II: Miami Connection

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Written by current and former members of the teams at Washington and Miami Valley

Extra Questions

Tossups

1. **This work was commissioned for a concert that advertised a judges' panel including Rachmaninoff, Efrem Zimbalist and soprano Alma Gluck. This work was composed in only five weeks while its composer was otherwise occupied with the premiere of *Sweet Little Devil*. The composer's two-piano score for this work was tailored to its commissioner Paul Whiteman's orchestra by his in-house arranger (*) Ferde Grofé. Ross Gorman improvised the famous opening clarinet glissando at the first rehearsal of, for 10 points, what 1924 composition for piano and jazz band by George Gershwin?**

ANSWER: **Rhapsody in Blue** <David Dennis>

2. **In a novel by this man, the title character travels to the South Pole along with the sailor Dirk Peters. In a poem by this author of *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*, the speaker asks if the title concept has not dragged "Diana from her car" and "driven the Hamadryad from the wood." That poem begins by calling the title concept a (*) "true daughter of old time." In this man's most famous poem, the title creature sits on a "bust of Pallas" and can only say "Nevermore." For 10 points, name this author from Baltimore who wrote "Sonnet to Science" and "The Raven."**

ANSWER: Edgar Allan **Poe** <William Groger>

3. **An e. e. cummings poem about carrying one of these objects includes the lines "here is the deepest secret nobody knows," and the speaker of a Byron poem asks a "Maid of Athens" to give back one of these objects before they part ways. These body parts are "torn and bleeding" in Paul Laurence Dunbar's "We Wear the Mask," and John Donne asked a (*) "three-personed God" to batter this organ. This internal organ is a "Lonely Hunter" in the title of a Carson McCullers novel. For 10 points, name this internal organ, which is "Tell-Tale" in an Edgar Allan Poe story.**

ANSWER: **heart** [or variants, such as **my heart** or **your heart**; or "**I Carry Your Heart With Me**;" or *The **Heart Is A Lonely Hunter***; or "The **Tell-Tale Heart**"] <Tyler Benedict>

4. **Z-pinches are devices used to compress these materials. The namesake parameter of these materials, denoted by capital lambda, determines whether these materials are strongly or weakly coupled. These materials can also be characterized by the Debye length, the distance past which electric fields are screened. They can be confined using a (*) toroidal magnetic field in a tokamak. This phase of matter, which is created by ionizing gas at very high temperatures, makes up the interior of the Sun. For 10 points, name this fourth state of matter.**

ANSWER: **plasmas** <Joe Stitz / ed. Ashwin Ramaswami>

5. This poet wrote that “to comprehend a Nectar requires sorest need” in a work about a member of a “purple Host;” that poem notes that “Success is counted sweetest by those who ne’er succeed.” This author wrote “I could not see to see” in “I heard a (*) Fly buzz when I died,” and began another poem with “Hope is the thing with feathers.” In another of this author’s poems, the title figure “kindly stopped for me.” For 10 points, name this American poet of “Because I could not stop for Death,” a woman nicknamed the “Belle of Amherst.”

ANSWER: Emily Dickinson [or Emily Elizabeth Dickinson] <Tyler Benedict>

6. In one of this artist’s paintings, a man in a black hat stands next to a pile of oyster shells. This artist of *The Philosopher* split another of his works into *The Bullfight* and *The Dead Toreador* after the original was poorly received. A bowl of oranges appears next to the central figure in a famous painting by this man, which was criticized for its inconsistencies involving a (*) mirror in the background. This artist also painted a nude woman sharing the title meal with two men. For 10 points, name this French artist of *Bar at the Folies-Bergère* [“Fo-leez Ber-jair”] and *Luncheon on the Grass*.

ANSWER: Eduard Manet <Carrie Derner>

7. In a short story by this author, children make colorful lanterns so they can hunt for the title insects. In another of his stories a student mistakes the age of a girl playing a drum. This author of “The Grasshopper and the Bell Cricket” and “The Dancing Girl of Izu” wrote the collection *Palm-of-the-Hand Stories*. A novel by this author sees Honinbo Shūsai, a renowned player of a certain (*) game, lose to a young upstart shortly before he dies. In another novel by this author, a western ballet expert visits hot springs in the title region, where he has an affair with the geisha Komako. For 10 points, name this Japanese author of *The Master of Go* and *Snow Country*.

ANSWER: Yasunari Kawabata <Carrie Derner>

8. A ceremony in this country consists of exhuming the remains of a family member seven years after death and is the “turning of the bones.” Only a man with still-living parents can perform the *ala volon-jaza*, or first cutting of a baby’s hair, that signals a child’s entrance into society in this country. Dramatic “forests” of limestone needles called the tsingys are found in this country, as well as the Avenue of the Baobabs. The main language of this country sounds similar to a dialect from Borneo, but has (*) Bantu and Swahili words, reflecting the mix of people in its Malagasy culture. For 10 points, name this island country off the coast of mainland Africa, known for its lemur population.

ANSWER: Madagascar <David Dennis>

Bonuses

1. Podcasts are growing in popularity. For 10 points each:

[10] This nonprofit media organization has put out several podcasts of its radio segments, including *Hidden Brain*, *Fresh Air*, and *Wait Wait Don't Tell Me*.

ANSWER: **NPR** [or **National Public Radio**]

[10] NPR also has a podcast of these kinds of discussions, featuring expert speakers and a variety of topics. These “talks” are called “ideas worth spreading” and also come in video form.

ANSWER: **TED** talks [or **Technology, Entertainment, and Design** talks]

[10] This fictional radio show-style podcast details mysterious events in a small desert town—describing forbidden dog parks, the weather, and the almighty Glow Cloud.

ANSWER: **Welcome to Night Vale** [prompt on **Night Vale**] <Audrey Bush>

2. This declaration consists of a paragraph inserted in a letter to Walter Rothschild. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this 1917 declaration, named for a British Foreign Secretary, which offers Britain’s support for “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.”

ANSWER: **Balfour** Declaration

[10] The Balfour Declaration was a major coup for supporters of this political movement, which sought to establish a Jewish state. Theodor Herzl was a founder of this movement.

ANSWER: **Zionism**

[10] The main goal of political Zionism was fulfilled in 1948 when this modern nation declared its independence. This state claims Jerusalem as its capital.

ANSWER: State of **Israel** [or Medinat **Yisra’el**; or Dawlat **Isra’il**] <Tyler Benedict>

3. The title character of this book believes he is God’s instrument and forces his best friend John to practice a basketball shot until it can be done in fewer than three seconds. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this John Irving novel partially set at Gravesend Academy that ends with the narrator pleading “O God, please give him back! I shall keep asking You.”

ANSWER: A **Prayer for Owen Meany**

[10] Many figures in *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, including a dressmaker’s dummy and the totem of Watahantowet, lack these physical features, which Owen also loses after a grenade explosion.

ANSWER: **arms** [or **hands**]

[10] Owen Meany is an homage to this author’s character Oskar Matzerath, who, like Owen, is dwarf-sized with a shrill voice. This German author’s Danzig Trilogy includes *The Tin Drum*.

ANSWER: Gunter **Grass** [or Gunter Wilhelm **Grass**] <Tyler Benedict>

4. Volker Bertelmann is known for performing on this instrument under the pseudonym Hauschka. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this instrument whose complex, inharmonic timbres are created by wedging bolts and pieces of weather stripping between the strings.

ANSWER: **Prepared Piano**

[10] This composer invented the prepared piano in 1940, when dancer Syvilla Fort asked him to write the score for her dance *Bacchanale*.

ANSWER: John **Cage**

[10] John Cage wrote this work after visiting an anechoic chamber at Harvard University. The premiere of this three-movement work was given by David Tudor in 1952.

ANSWER: **4'33"** [*Four Minutes, Thirty-Three Seconds*] <David Dennis>

5. In this short story, the laboratory assistant Aminadab is said to represent man's "physical nature," while his master Aylmer is described as "the spiritual element." For 10 points each:

[10] Name this short story where Georgiana bears the title blemish, which is shaped like a tiny hand.

ANSWER: The **Birth-Mark**

[10] "The Birth-Mark" appeared in this author's collection *Mosses from an Old Manse*. He also wrote a novel about Hester Prynne, *The Scarlet Letter*.

ANSWER: Nathaniel **Hawthorne**

[10] In this Hawthorne short story, the title character witnesses his wife Faith attending a witches' sabbath.

ANSWER: "**Young Goodman Brown**" <Tyler Benedict>

6. Eleanor Roosevelt was called a communist for writing a newspaper column about these events, which she said had "roots going a long way back." For 10 points each:

[10] Name this series of attacks, ostensibly related to one group's flouting of World War II fabric rationing. The Sleepy Lagoon murder case was a precursor of these events.

ANSWER: **Zoot Suit** Riots

[10] The Zoot Suit Riots primarily targeted young men of this ethnicity, who were accused of belonging to *pachuco* gangs.

ANSWER: **Mexican**-American [or **Chicano**; or **Hispanic**; or **Latino**]

[10] The Zoot Suit Riots took place in this California city. The Watts riots of the 1960s took place in this city, as did the South Central riots after the beating of Rodney King.

ANSWER: **Los Angeles** [or **L.A.**] <Tyler Benedict>

7. One character in this novel kills a man who had shot him in the leg with a bow and arrow using a flare gun he had earlier found in a boat. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this novel centering upon an unnamed father and his son's journey across a post-apocalyptic America.

ANSWER: *The Road*

[10] This protagonist of *Blood Meridian* and member of the scalp hunting Glanton Gang is killed by the hairless albino, Judge Holden.

ANSWER: the kid

[10] This author of *The Road* and *Blood Meridian* wrote about Llewelyn Moss finding 2.4 million dollars following a drug deal gone bad in *No Country for Old Men*.

ANSWER: Cormac McCarthy [or Charles McCarthy] <William Groger>

8. In September 2017, Bruce Maxwell became the first Major League Baseball player to perform this action. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this action, which was also performed by numerous NFL players, including the entire Oakland Raiders offensive line, the only all-African-American line in the league.

ANSWER: kneeling during U.S. National Anthem [or anything suggesting taking a knee during the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner;" prompt on a partial answer; prompt on protesting the anthem by asking for a specific action]

[10] This former 49ers quarterback was the first NFL player to kneel during the anthem. He has not been signed by a team in 2017, leading to accusations that he is being blackballed.

ANSWER: Colin Kaepernick ["*KAP-er-nick*"] [or Colin Rand Kaepernick]

[10] The anthem protests have drawn comparisons to Tommie Smith and John Carlos, who performed this action on the medal podium at the 1968 Olympics after winning gold and bronze.

ANSWER: raising a fist [or Olympic Black Power Salute; or Black Power Fist; prompt on any partial answer] <Tyler Benedict>

9. For 10 points each, answer some questions about something that was in fact *not* forged by the Dark Lord Sauron.

[10] This object was made by the craftsman Ilmarinen, and had no true described shape, but brought its owner great wealth. In some versions, it was lost to the sea after a battle with Pohjola.

ANSWER: the Sampo

[10] The Sampo and Ilmarinen come from the myth system of this country, where the world was formed out of an egg and the skies rotated around the North Star and the north pole.

ANSWER: The Republic of Finland [or Republiken Finland; or Suomen Tasavalta; or Suomi]

[10] Finland's national epic is this poetic book, compiled in the nineteenth century by Elias Lonnrot, which takes its name from the land its heroes are from.

ANSWER: the Kalevala [or the Kalewala] <Audrey Bush>