

Here are ten literature toss-ups I wrote for a vanity pack. The conceit is that these are the last ten books I read, with the asterix that they have at least one hit on QBRReader and I also liked each one enough to want to write a toss-up on it.

1. One character in this novel realizes he “never scratched out those infernal diagrams,” which he drew in the sand to explain sex to a graduating pupil with no close male relatives. Another character in this novel tells the protagonist to read Symposium, in an attempt to convey his feelings for him. Those two meet for the first time when one of them is looking for a piece of music in Risley’s room. Later, the protagonist of this novel fears he will be exposed or blackmailed after he sleeps with the lower class Alec Scudder. For 10 points, name this novel by E. M Forster, in which the titular Englishman ends up with the gamekeeper of his former lover, Clive Durham.

ANSWER: **Maurice**

2. The narrator of this novel describes his lover chipping away at a brick wall to make a bookcase, suggesting it is to “push back the encroaching walls,” so he will stay in the room. The morning after those two characters meet, they go out for breakfast to a restaurant in Les Halles where a tall pockmarked man named Yves is playing pinball. They are accompanied by two older men, Jacques and Guillaume, one of whom owns the gay bar where the narrator’s lover works. During this time, the narrator’s girlfriend, Hella, is away in Spain “to think.” For 10 points, name this novel about the American David in Paris, and his relationship with the titular Italian bartender, by James Baldwin.

ANSWER: **Giovanni’s Room**

3. A character in this book has a birthmark on his foot that his father jokes looks like a dark red Australia and New Zealand. This book described three ways to make napalm, including mixing equal parts gasoline and frozen orange juice concentrate. Though the narrator of this novel doesn’t actually have cancer, he shows up to support groups, like one for testicular cancer called Remaining Men Together, where he cries when Big Bob hugs him. The narrator of this book moves to a house on Paper Street with the man who invented Project Mayhem, Tyler Durden. For ten points, which novel by Chuck Palahniuk is named after a group whose first rule is that you do not talk about it?

ANSWER: **Fight Club**

4. One woman in this novel contemplates how she will buy her mother a new dishwasher, but is still hurt by how, when she divorced her alcoholic husband Ricky, her mother sided with him. As an arts program director, she organises a simultaneous chess game where she meets one of the novel’s main characters, a former chess prodigy, who beats all 10 of his opponents, including the local chess club’s captain Ollie. Another character in this novel is caught between his affection for two very different women, his former girlfriend Sylvia, and the much younger Naomi. For 10 points, name this novel which follows the brothers Ivan and Peter Koubek, the fourth novel by Sally Rooney.

ANSWER: **Intermezzo**

5. One character in this novel worries a joke he made was poorly received because it could have been understood to imply the landlord’s wife resembled a cockerel. The protagonist of this novel is mistaken for a gentleman after his Ford runs out of petrol in Moscombe, however Dr. Carlisle realizes this is not the case. That protagonist of this novel frequently reflects on the meaning of “dignity” and wishes to improve

his skills at “bantering” to please his new American employer, Mr. Faraday. For 10 points, name this novel centering on a journey to visit Ms. Kenton, which the butler Stevens embarks on from Darlington Hall, written by Kazuo Ishiguro.

ANSWER: The **Remains of the Day**

6. One character in this novel recalls how good Jackie’s giraffes were. Another character in this novel is praised by Miss Geraldine for his watercolour painting of an elephant, but the narrator suspects him of doing “deliberately childish pictures” to hide that he wasn’t keeping up. Miss Lucy comforts that boy by telling him it’s okay if he’s not creative, but later regrets this. Two veterans from the Cottages, Chrissie and Rodney, convince a group to go on a trip to Norfolk, where one of them finds a Judy Bridgewater cassette, long after losing a copy in Hailsham. For 10 points, name this novel that follows Tommy, Ruth, and Cathy, who are clones created to act as organ donors, written by Kazuo Ishiguro.

ANSWER: **Never Let Me Go**

7. One character in this novel receives post cards from his mother under the name “Aunt Monica.” That man pretends to listen to his friend, who is viewed as a god-like figure, through his watch, in an imitation of Uncle En. One character in this novel attends Martha Graham Academy, while his friend goes to the much more prestigious Watson-Crick Institute. The father of this novel’s protagonist works for a company which grows organs in “pigoons,” and later the protagonist’s friend is hired by a competing company, RejoovenEsence. For 10 points, name this novel following Snowman’s life on a post-apocalyptic earth, written by Margaret Atwood.

ANSWER: **Oryx and Crake**

8. One work created by a man in this novel is accompanied by words including “No time for cowardly talking.” That man recalls being barred from his father’s formal reception room until he was 12. Upon reaching that age, he was required to go to weekly “business meetings” with his father where he was miserable, since he did not understand what was going on. The Mayake family withdrew from marriage negotiations concerning Noriko, the daughter of this novel’s protagonist, potentially due to his past making propaganda to support Japanese Imperialism, like the “Eyes to the Horizon.” For 10 points, name this novel narrated by the retired painter Masuji Ono, written by Kazuo Ishiguro.

ANSWER: An **Artist of the Floating World**

9. One woman in this novel dreams she is dead, but claims that the fact that she needs to pee proves she isn’t. In another dream of hers, she is one of 20 naked women forced to march around a pool, singing and doing kneebends. Franz is mortally wounded during fatal mugging in this novel, after he takes part in protests and marches in Cambodia. He is the lover of a woman who wears a bowler hat during sex with another man, the owner of a dog named Karenin. For 10 points, name this Czech novel in which the womanizing Tomas sleeps with Sabinda, despite being married to Tereza, written by Milan Kundera.

ANSWER: The **Unbearable Lightness of Being**

10. In a novella length sequel to this work, the protagonist, described as “a scavenger and a madwoman” smashes up her junkshop and moves to Miami, where she meets the retired buttonmaker in a laundromat. The title object of this story is said to be magic, since “it could nourish an infant for three days and three nights.” After Stella steals it, a baby cries baby cries “Maaaa- [...] Maaa- aaaa” and is discovered by Nazi

guards. For 10 points, name this short story in which Rosa stuffs the title object in her mouth to stop from screaming, after the baby Magda is thrown against an electric fence, written by Cynthia Ozick.

ANSWER: The **Shawl**