**Alvin’s Strange Set (ASS)**

Writers: *Alvin Guo*
Head Editor: *Alvin Guo*

1. **This is the final word uttered in a film inspired by Arthur Schnitzler’s *Traumnovelle* in which Dr. William Harford is stalked in the streets of New York after attending a mysterious orgy. In another film, a character played by Steve Martin repeatedly uses this word while talking to a car rental employee. The (\*)** first use of this word in the Marvel Cinematic Universe is directed towards Nebula in a comic scene on Counter-Earth. Used 569 times in *The Wolf of Wall Street* is, for ten points, what four-letter word that gave *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles* its R-rating?

*Answer:* **fuck** [accept word forms such as **fucking**; the film in the first line is *Eyes Wide Shut.*]

2. ***Note: Author and type of work required*. One of these works is centrally featured in a 2025 Harley Quinn April Fool’s comic that received overwhelming backlash for its perceived kinkiness. In one of these works, the author mentions its addressee’s “quiet saintlike eyes” during a stay in Trieste. One of these works expresses the desire to get fucked “on the stairs in the dark, like a nursery-maid fucking her soldier”, while another calls its (\*)** addressee a “dirty little Fuckbird” and is addressed to the “little farting” Nora Barnacle. For ten points, name these often-profane epistles by the author of *Dubliners*.

*Answer:* James **Joyce**’s **letters** to Nora Barnacle [or **epistles** by James **Joyce**, or any clear knowledge equivalent]

3. **In a song starting with this word, a rapper sounds like he’s about to laugh as he declares “and this is my single.” Besides prefacing “I’m in the Club” in that song, this word also appears at the beginning of the title of a 2012 song that was originally meant to (\*)** feature Lady Gaga. That song’s chorus declares “I got my drink, I got my music, I would share it, but, today, I'm yellin' [the title phrase].” For ten points, name this demeaning word that comes before “Don’t Kill My Vibe” in the title of a Kendrick Lamar song.

*Answer:* “**Bitch**” [accept “**Bitch** I’m in the Club” or “**Bitch** Don’t Kill My Vibe”]

4. **The leader of this group claims ancestry from the Bridger family, and trained in the Devil’s Brigade. A member of this group nicknamed for a large mammal beats a man to death with a club in an extensive sequence. At the end of the (\*)** film they appear in, the leader of this group carves a Swastika in the forehead of the nefarious Hans Landa. Led by Lieutenant Aldo Raine is, for ten points, what group of Nazi killers that title a 2009 Quentin Tarantino film?

*Answer:* Inglourious **Basterds**

5. **The main character of this novel has children with women such as Aspireene, Tylenola, and Dextarina, and denies withholding payments to them on the Snookie Cane show. This novel was written in response to Juanita Mae Jenkins’ *We Lives in Da Ghetto*. After signing this novel’s movie rights for 3 million dollars, its author decided to change its original title, *My Pafology*. Written by Thelonious Ellison under the pen name Stagg R. Leigh is, for ten points, what novel-within-a-novel in Percival Everett’s *Erasure*? (\*)**

*Answer:* ***Fuck***[prompt on *My Pafology* before mentioned with “what is the preferred title as per the author?”, prompt on *Erasure*]

6. **Thomas Nelson Winter noted the difficulty of translating this poem’s first and last lines, since they are the same, and notes that F.A. Wright’s translation “I’ll show you I’m a man” falls “far short” of its original text. Translators often have difficulty translating this poem’s word “irrumābō”, since it is hard to describe the act of receiving fellatio in a hendecasyllabic meter. This is the latter and more famous of two poems whose main threat is addressed towards Furuis and Aurelius. Intended for its author’s critics is, for ten points, what profane Latin poem whose first line is often translated as “I will sodomize and face-fuck you”? (\*)**

*Answer:* **Catullus 16** [or **Carmen 16**, accept “**I will sodomize you and face-fuck you**” or similar before mentioned, accept “**Pēdīcābō ego vōs et irrumābō**” for all the Latin freaks]

7. **In 2014, the Huffington post created a compilation video of every performance of this action ever, starting with the 1988 film *School Daze*. A Twitter user argued that a certain actor made an average of $1040 every single time he performed this action, though that was later proven wrong, since this action had not happened 1,110 times. In a (\*)** 1994 film, a character shouts “ENGLISH!” before this action takes place. For ten points, name this action, the utterance of a certain profane word by the portrayer of Jules Winnfield and Nick Fury.

*Answer:* Samuel L. **Jackson** saying “**motherfucker**” [accept any reasonable equivalent, prompt on Samuel L. Jackson swearing, prompt on saying “motherfucker”, reject any mention of “fuck” only]

8. **In an infamous comic book panel, a certain character reaches out of the panel and yells “No-- Don’t go..” before uttering this first name. A character created to *succeed* a character with this first name was (\*)** killed off in the storyline “A Death in the Family” after readers voted so in a telephone poll. A character with this first name is the son of a group of master acrobats and later dons the moniker Nightwing. For ten points, give this first name of an iteration of Robin with the last name Grayson.

*Answer:* **Dick** Grayson [first line refers to Starfire]

9. ***Two answers required*. In a 2022 *Poetry* *Magazine* article titled principally for one of these two actions, Masaoka Shiki noted that “If we attend to beauty, we can find almost nothing that completely lacks it,” regarding these two actions. Places where people perform either of these two actions are usually referred to in haikus as *benjo* or *secchin*. In Basho poems, a horse performs one of these actions near a pillow, while a bush warbler does the other on a rice cake in a different one of his poems. For ten points, what two actions might a medieval Japanese pilgrim take at an (\*)** outhouse?

*Answer:* **pissing** and **shitting** [in either order; accept equivalents, though these are the Donald Kenne approved words]

10. ***Description acceptable*. This practice had its origins dating back to the 1970s, according to *The New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*. Portuguese speakers frequently use this practice to convey the word “seios”, while French speakers use “debile”. A common (\*)** number used for this practice can be obtained by multiplying 567 by 2. For ten points, one may induce funnies by performing what action using the number 5318008 and flipping a certain mathematical device upside-down?

*Answer:* **calculator** **spelling** [accept anything that describes spelling words with calculators]

11. **Vampire ground finch are observed to commonly feast on the blood of two species in the genus. The scientific name of this genus, *Sula*, is derived from the Icelandic name of the gannet, while its common English name may be derived from the Spanish word for “stupid”. After Guanay cormorant, the Peruvian variety of this (\*)** non-Pelican bird is the largest producer of guano in the world. For ten points, give this common name of a genus of bird comes in red-footed and blue-footed varieties.

*Answer:* **boobies** [or **booby**; prompt on *Sula* before mentioned]

12. **It is hypothesized that ancestors of animals in this (\*)** family migrated to North America twice; both likely in the early Pliocene. A member of this family of organisms is the only species in the genus *Pseudopodoces* and is known for dwelling in the Himalayas. This family, whose scientific name is *Paridae*, includes a group of animals known for a distinctive five-syllable call. This family of birds includes the chickadee. For ten points, what birds describe a synonym for the birds in the previous question?

*Answer:* **tits** [prompt on chickadee with “what family of birds are they from?”; accept Tibetan ground-**tit**]

13. **BTS performed this action in their 2018 Billboard Music Awards performance of “Fake Love” in order to avoid certain cultural misunderstandings. A certain American band formed in 2001 is known for rendering songs nearly (\*)** unlistenable by performing this action to them, and released their 50th album on January 17th this year. For ten points, what action do white people frequently perform while naming the title a certain Jay-Z and Kanye West song?

*Answer:* self-**censor**ship [accept anything regarding censoring swears in music, accept replacing words or anything similar; the band is *Kidz Bop*]

14. **This concept was first introduced on the album *Class Clown*, in which its originator also listed every nun or priest that worked at the Corpus Christi School in New York City. That originator of this concept noted that “some of your favorites might be added to [this thing]”, before listing off hilariously random words ending with “dingleberry”. A rant that coined this term triggered the (\*)** 1978 Supreme Court case *FCC v. Pacifica Foundation*. For ten points, name this set devised by George Carlin of words you cannot say on television.

*Answer:* the **seven dirty words** that you can’t say on television

15. **A tour guide from this place joked, “the Americans want to see where *The Sound of Music* was filmed, but for the British, it’s all about [this place].” A video posted by the YouTube channel Jatis states that “I more and more love” children from this (\*)** village. In 2021, this village changed its name after its local signs kept on being stolen. For ten points, name this Austrian town that is technically named Fugging.

*Answer:* **Fucking**, **Upper Austria** [prompt on Fucking with what country, and when they inevitably say Austria, say “top or bottom?” and then clarify that you mean Upper or Lower Austria; do not accept or prompt on Fugging, Austria]

16. ***Exact phrase required.* In an Adrian Mitchell parody of a certain poem, people who perform a stand-in for this action “read you Peter Rabbit, too.” A poem notes that people who perform this action were themselves victims of it by (\*)** “fools in old-style hats and coats.” A poem that starts by conceding that certain people may not mean to perform this action ends with “and don’t have any kids yourself.” For ten points, what action is performed by “your mum and dad” according to a Philip Larkin poem?

*Answer:* they **fuck you up**, your mum and dad [the parody poem is “This Be the Worst”]

17. **A 2013 Marchex survey named this state the second-most profane but the third-most courteous in the country, based on the usage of phrases such as “fuck you” and “thank you.” An infamous nearly 4-minute long television scene set in this state is entirely nonverbal except for the main characters grunting the words “fuck” and “motherfucker” as they attempt to trace the path of a bullet. Isiah (\*)** Whitlock Jr. is best known for his pronunciation of a certain word while portraying a character that works at an agency in this state. For ten points, the word “shit” is often drawn out by Clay Davis in what state where *The Wire* is set?

*Answer:* Baltimore, **Maryland**

**Bonuses**

1. At the end of a film from this country, a woman dies after falling through a dock plank. For ten points:

[10m] Name this country, the setting of the Madame Bovary adaptation *Abraham’s Valley*. This country is known for its Portuguese language cinema.

*Answer*: **Portugal**

[10h] In this 2012 Portuguese film by Miguel Gomes, which prominently features a crocodile, Aurora recounts her time living in Africa near Mount Tabu.

*Answer*: **Tabu**

[10e] The bulk of *Crocodile Dundee* takes place in this country, where at the end of the film, the titular crocodile hunter performs an Aboriginal walkabout.

*Answer*: The **United States** of **America**

2. This musician was given an olive-green instrument by another player of his instrument, Alan Silva. For ten points each:

[10h] Name this free jazz double bassist behind the groups In Order to Survive and Raining on the Moon. His most famous frequent collaborators include Cecil Taylor and Hamid Drake.

*Answer:* William **Parker**

[10m] This other free jazz musician is known for his intense use of extended techniques on albums such as *The Snake Decides*. He plays an extended solo on the soprano saxophone in the beginning of Kenny Wheeler’s “Sea Lady”.

*Answer:* Evan **Parker**

[10e] This bebop saxophonist who popularized “Body and Soul” on a legendary 1939 recording had an ornithological nickname.

*Answer:* Coleman **Hawkins** [accept “**Hawk** Tuah”]

3. In a 2024 film, one of these characters is introduced in a shot that notably inverts the image of the Statue of Liberty. For ten points each:

[10e] Name this type of person. Ayn Rand’s time as one of these people influenced her to write the novel *The Fountainhead*. The title character of Brady Corbet’s film *The Brutalist* is also one of these people.

*Answer*: **Immigrant**s

[10m] The end of *The Brutalist* is set at this event, which also hosted the premiere of *The Brutalist*.

*Answer*: **Venice Biennale** of Architecture (accept **Venice Biennial** of Architecture, prompt on Architecture Biennale, anti-prompt on Venice Film Festival)

[10h] Many Australians noticed the similarity between *The Brutalist’s* main theme and the theme of this Australian News Channel, which interviewed the film’sstar Guy Perace in 2013.

*Answer:* **Channel 10** News (or **Network 10** News, or **10 Network**)