

IN-FAMOUS CLASSICS

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How good are you at recognizing famous works of literature, music or movies from their plots? The plots sketched in the following paragraphs should give you enough clues to fill in the blanks with the name of each work, thus completing the sketch.

1. An eccentric army cook had rigid rules for feeding his men. One of his quirks was to restrict certain spices and herbs to men of certain rank; for example, the colonel was entitled to have cumin, the captain was allowed sage, the general could have dill, and privates were limited to parsley. One day a non-com complained bitterly about the lack of flavor in his roast lamb, and asked the cook for a certain herb -- to which the cook arrogantly replied, "Well, sir, you know there's in my mess hall."

2. In a sequel to the above story, the cook was teaching his assistant how to bake bread. He demonstrated all the techniques of mixing and kneading the dough, and then said, "Now it must be left in a warm place until it doubles." So he set the pan near a bright window and told the apprentice, "We'll just leave it there,"

3. A customer entered a butcher shop in the Far North and asked the manager what specialty meats he had to sell. The butcher listed a few: deer, elk, moose, bear, buffalo, and one old racehorse whose final destiny was transformation into dog food. The customer asked, "Why did you get rid of the horse? And how much are those two kinds of meat there?" The butcher tersely replied, "Because he wouldn't for 98¢ a pound, and elk sells for \$1.50."

4. An enterprising shyster decided to exhibit his house to the public as the birthplace of a famous actor. One awe-struck tourist asked, "Did Clark really live here?" The shyster replied, "Ah, yes, when he was alive, we were one big happy family. Then there were eight of us, but with Clark missing, this is just"

5. A fruit vendor was showing to a customer samples of the varieties of apples he had to sell. He brought out one after another from

some hidden supply in the back room. The customer, upon tasting one, remarked, "Is this a MacIntosh that you've kept at room temperature?" "No," replied the vendor, "that's not a Mac, and it's been kept well-chilled; that's"

6. King Arthur was irked. One after another of his Round Table men kept disturbing him while he was trying to catch forty winks one afternoon. Finally, after a dozen interruptions, he roared, "Great William's Ghost! You're the to come barging in here! Can't you leave me alone?"

7. It was a peaceful winter night. John and his wife were settled by the fire with a bowl of pecans and mugs of cider. After a few jaw-wrenching attempts at shelling the pecans with his teeth, John asked his wife, "These things are just too hard; would you bring me?"

8. Alice and Betty stopped at a snack bar after a strenuous day of shopping. Betty ordered coffee, and asked Alice if she'd have the same. "No," replied Alice, "my doctor has forbidden coffee, but I can haveitously."

9. An old shoemaker was known for his fine work, especially the perfect fit of his specialty -- Indian moccasins. When asked his secret, he replied, "Well, you see, in shaping my moccasins, I always use"

10. A tourist foursome returned from a cruise on an Oriental sampan. They hadn't seen much of the scenery on their trip, as they spent most of their time playing cards. As one of them explained to a friend, "We spent our vacation playing"

11. In a little-known chapter of the story of Aladdin, mention is made of a magic spirit other than those of the lamp and the ring. This spirit was always accompanied by a tan rabbit; Aladdin referred to him as "My"

12. A small gift shop in the shadow of the Kremlin decided to get rid of unwanted items by having special bargain hours. Everything sold at regular prices during the day, but for an hour at dusk, items were greatly reduced. The store soon became famous to American tourists as the shop with

13. A famous naturalist toured the country lecturing, often with a pet deer as a special attraction. On one of these trips he appeared without his deer, explaining to his New York audience, "I had to make a quick trip from California, and"

14. A fisherman in one of our southern states discovered a fish that yielded a rare and tasty kind of caviar, golden in color. He marketed his find, and soon he became famous as the seller of

15. An art dealer specialized in antiques of Old World origin, especially those of the Mediterranean area. Often his customers bought objects on the time-payment plan, and stopped in weekly with the payments. One day he spotted a customer leaving, and asked his assistant, "Did he come in to pay what he"?"

Answers are given in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

QUERY

In the May 1971 Kicksaws, Dave Silverman issued the difficult challenge of finding four letters which, together with each of the 26 letters, can be rearranged to form 26 five-letter words. Unfortunately, these constructions tend to founder when the rarest letters of the alphabet are reached. Readers may wish to aid in a somewhat simpler research task. The words SEXUAL and SQUEAL use the same letters except that X is substituted for Q; similarly, ESQUIRE and SEIZURE use the same letters except that Z is substituted for Q. If one is restricted to the four rarest letters (J, Q, X, Z) there are six different types of rare-letter substitutions. How many different word-pairs can one find for each type? (Note that rearrangement is not required; JEST and ZEST are a valid word-pair.) To keep the list from getting out of hand, one may want to restrict the search to (say) Webster's Collegiate.