

LITERATURE TRIVIA QUESTIONS III



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- 1> Sent to the Bastille twice for making fun of aristocrats, Francois Marie Arouet wisely opted to write under what best of all pen names?
- 2> Joseph Heller wanted to call it Catch-18, but Leon Uris published Mila 18. Catch-11 was out because of Ocean's 11. Catch-17 was out because of Stalag 17. What was the book finally called?
- 3> Although he published The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde under his own name, who published Treasure Island as Captain George North?
- 4> What character did Ian Fleming name for the American author of a guide to birds of the West Indies?
- 5> The six-toed descendants of which author's cats roam free in his former home on Whitehead Street in Key West, Florida?
- 6> D is for Detective. Who created Santa Teresa sleuth Kinsey Millhone?
- 7> What swashbuckler is named for a primrose known to scientists as Anagallis arvensis and to some as the poor man's barometer?
- 8> Writer F. Scott Fitzgerald was named for his second cousin, three times removed. What was this cousin famous for doing?
- 9> What author embezzled a Texas bank, fled to Honduras, returned to the US to visit his dying wife and spent three years in an Ohio prison?
- 10> What fictional sleuth produced a handbook on bees and a monograph on more than a hundred varieties of tobacco ash?
- 11> Although HAL is one letter up from IBM, what SF writer said HAL is actually short for "heuristic algorithmic computer"?
- 12> Even though the play is named for the Moor, who has the most lines in "Othello"?

13> Ray Bradbury was actually a little confused. What is the actual ignition temperature for paper?

14> Although already in use as a short form of the Welsh name Gwendolyn, "Wendy" is said to have been created in what story, after James Barrie heard a child mispronounce "friend"?

15> My most famous creation believed in deduction and logic, but I was easily fooled by a couple of schoolgirls and their fake photographs of fairies. Who am I?

Answers:

1> Voltaire - Voltaire is a semi-anagram of Arouet. He wanted to 'crush the infamy' of religious superstition. Despite all this, he became influential in the court of Louis XV.

2> Catch-22 - So, 22 is 11 doubled. He came up with the name with editor Joseph Gottlieb, who would rearrange the book by taping pages to his wall.

3> Robert Louis Stevenson - Jekyll, by the way, was originally meant to be pronounced Jeacle, as it would be in Scotland.

4> James Bond - The book is called either Birds of the West Indies or Field Guide to Birds of the West Indies.

5> Ernest Hemingway - It was also home to John James Audubon.

6> Sue Grafton - The California community of Santa Teresa was actually created by another mystery writer, Ross MacDonald.

7> Scarlet Pimpernel - It is so nicknamed for its ability to close up its flowers in a storm.

8> Writing the Star-Spangled Banner - That cousin was Francis Scott Key.

9> O Henry - William Sydney Porter worked as the night pharmacist and apparently took his pen name from a guard's name badge.

10> Sherlock Holmes - Holmes credited morphine and cocaine with augmenting his analytical powers.

11> Arthur C Clarke - That being said, he co-wrote it with Stanley Kubrick and the actual IBM logo appears twice in the film, in scenes that suggest HAL is an IBM.

12> Iago - He also has the most lines of any non-titular Shakespeare character.

13> 450 degrees Celsius - That's for rayon fibers. If the paper is made from cotton, it's 475. He called the book Fahrenheit 451 anyway.

14> Peter Pan - James Barrie got it from Fwendy-Wendy, his childhood name for a friend named Margaret Henley.

15> Arthur Conan Doyle - He wrote a widely derided 1922 defending the existence of fairies.