

INSTRUCTIONS:

- write a substantive commentary (about a paragraph) in your own words for each (5 points a piece).
 - Your commentary should:
 1. name the text or film it came from
 2. describe what is happening in the excerpt
 3. discuss each excerpt in relation to parody, caricature, and/or satire, using one or more of these key terms.
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1. Oscar Wilde, "The Decay of Lying"

a. Potential Quiz Passage

is changed. Facts are not merely finding a footing-place in history, but they are usurping the domain of Fancy, and have invaded the kingdom of Romance. Their chilling touch is over everything. They are vulgarising mankind. The crude commercialism of America, its materialising spirit, its indifference to the poetical side of things, and its lack of imagination and of high unattainable ideals, are entirely due to that country having adopted for its national hero a man who, according to his own confession, was incapable of telling a lie, and it is not too much to say that the story of George Washington and the cherry-tree has done more harm, and in a shorter space of time, than any other moral tale in the whole of literature."

b.

c.

2. Venus Xtravaganza, "Paris is Burning"

a. Potential Quiz Passage

- b. I want a car. I want to be with the man I love. I want a nice home, away from New York, up the Peekskills or maybe in Florida, somewhere far, where no one knows me. I want my sex change... I want to get married in church in white. I want to be a complete woman. I want to be a professional model behind cameras in a high fashion world. I want this, this is what I want. And I'm gonna go for it.**

c.

3. Pepper LaBeija, "Paris is Burning" (Drag as "Self-parody that reeks of self love")

a. Potential Quiz Passage

- b. The nagging about these women's clothes! When she [Pepper's mother] found women's clothes stashed in my closet she would destroy them. She burned up a mink coat! I was...oh!...devastated.

I've been a man. And I've been a man who emulated a woman, I've never been a woman...I can never say how a woman feels, I can only say how a man who acts like a woman or dresses like a woman feels.

c.

4. Fantomina (Response to Rape)

- a. Potential Quiz Passage

was indebted for the bliss he had enjoyed.—Some remains of yet unextinguished modesty, and sense of shame, made her blush exceedingly at this demand; but recollecting herself in a little time, she told him so much of the truth, as to what related to the frolic she had taken of satisfying her curiosity in what manner mistresses, of the sort she appeared to be, were treated by those who addressed them; but forbore discovering her true name and quality, for the reasons she had done before, resolving, if he boasted of this affair, he should not have it in his power to touch her character. She therefore said she was the daughter of a country gentleman, who was come to town to buy clothes, and that she was called Fantomina. He had no reason to distrust the truth of this story, and was therefore satisfied with it; but did not doubt by the beginning of her conduct, but that in the end she would be in reality the thing she so artfully had counterfeited; and had good nature enough to pity the misfortunes he imagined would be her lot. But to tell her so, or offer his advice in that point, was not his business, at least as yet.

- b. They parted not till towards morning, and she obliged him with a

c.

5. Fanomona (Skilled actor)

- a. Potential Quiz Passage

It may, perhaps, seem strange that *Beauplaisir* should in such near intimacies continue still deceived. I know there are men who will swear it is an impossibility, and that no disguise could hinder them from knowing a woman they had once enjoyed. In answer to these scruples, I can only say, that besides the alteration which the change of dress made in her, she was so admirably skilled in the art of feigning that she had the power of putting on almost what face she pleased, and knew so exactly how to form her behavior to the character she represented that all the comedians¹ at both playhouses are infinitely short of her performances. She could vary her very glances, tune her voice to accents the most different imaginable from those in which she spoke when she appeared herself.—These aids from nature, joined to the wiles of art, and the distance between the places where the imagined *Fantomina* and *Celia* were, might very well prevent his having any thought

b.

that they were the same, or that the fair *widow* was either of them: It never so much as entered his head, and though he did fancy he observed in the face of the latter, features which were not altogether unknown to him, yet he could not recollect when or where he had known them;—and being told by her, that from her birth she had never removed from *Bristol*, a place where he never was, he rejected the belief of having seen her, and supposed his mind had been deluded by an idea of some other, whom she might have a resemblance of.

c.

6. The Wife of Bath (General Prologue Portrait)

a. Potential Quiz Passage

A good WIFE was there from nearby to BATH;
 It was a pity she was deaf by half.
 In cloth-making she had such a talent
 She far passed those from Ypres and from Ghent.⁴⁹
 And throughout all her parish, there was no
 Wife who might first to the offering go
 Before her; if one did, so mad was she
 That she lost any sense of charity.
 Her coverchiefs of fine linen were found;
 I dare swear that they weighed a full ten pounds,
 The ones that, Sundays, sat upon her head.
 Her stockings were all fine and scarlet red,
 Quite tightly laced, her shoes quite soft and new.
 Bold was her face, and fair, and red of hue.
 All her life, she was a worthy woman,
 Husbands at the church door, she'd had five then,
 Not counting other company in youth—
 No need to speak of that now, to tell the truth.

b.

And thrice she had been to Jerusalem;⁵⁰
 Many a foreign sea, she'd covered them;
 At Rome she'd been, and also at Boulogne,
 At Saint James in Galicia and Cologne.
 She knew much of wandering by the way.

Gap toothed⁵¹ she was, it is the truth to say.
 Quite easily on her ambling horse she sat,
 Wearing a wimpled headdress and a hat
 Like a buckler or a shield as broad and round;
 A foot-mantle about her large hips wound,
 And on her feet a pair of sharp spurs poked.
 In fellowship, quite well she laughed and joked.
 The remedies of love she knew by heart,
 For of that old dance, she knew all the art.

c.

7. The Wife's Prologue II. (The contents of Jankin's Book of Wicked Wives- Is the wife a "wicked wife"?)

a. Potential Quiz Passage

But now to my purpose, why I told you
That I was beaten for a book, it's true!
One night Jenkin, who was our lord and sire,
Read in this book, as he sat by the fire,
Of Eve first: because of her wickedness,
All mankind was brought into wretchedness,
And thus Jesus Christ himself was slain then,

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b.

Who bought us with his own heart's blood again.
Lo, here, expressly, of woman you find
That woman was the loss of all mankind.
He read to me how Samson⁴⁴ lost his hair:
His lover cut it while he did sleep there;
And through this treason, he lost both his eyes.

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c.