

INQUIZITION'22

LITERATURE  
QUIZ



**1.**

**X was a French aviator and writer whose works are the unique testimony of a pilot and warrior, who cast a poetic gaze on adventure and danger. While he was in America, he wrote his most famous work, Y, a child's fable for adults, conveying a gentle yet grave reminder that the best things in life are still the simplest ones, and that real wealth lies in charity and altruism.**

**Name X, who died while on duty in WWII, and the modern classic Y.**



**X - Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.**

**Y - The Little Prince/Le Petit Prince**



# 2.

**X is Salman Rushdie's third novel, published in 1983. This book was written out of a desire to approach the problem of "artificial" country divisions, their residents' complicity, and the problems of post-colonialism when Pakistan was created to separate the Muslims from the Hindus. It portrays the lives of Iskander Harappa and General Raza Hyder (inspired by Bhutto and Zia). The central theme of the novel is that begetting "X" begets violence: and the concepts of 'X' and 'X-lessness' are explored through all of the characters. X remains banned in Pakistan.**

**ID X -**



# **X - Shame**



**3\*.**



**\_A\_\_B\_\_C\_\_ (ABC) is a city, and also the capital of the eponymous district in the Pakistani province of Punjab. It is named after a Sikh religious figure BC. Legend has it that BC, a kind hearted man, provided water and shelter to travellers passing by a small pond ('A' in Punjabi), which eventually came to be known as ABC, i.e., "Pond of BC"; thus, the surrounding settlement acquired the name ABC. Y, a prominent Urdu novelist, wrote a famous short story entitled 'ABC' satirising the Partition.**

**Name Y, the Urdu novelist, and his work ABC.**



**ABC - Toba Tek Singh**

**Y - Saadat Hassan Manto**



4.

Which author's 61st birthday in 2013 was commemorated by this Google Doodle? (He passed away in the early 2000s)







**Douglas Adams**

**Multiple references to *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy***



5.

This is a tribute by Amul to an author X upon his death. The title is a reference to one of his most controversial and critiqued works, Y. FITB, where the green blank is X, and the yellow one is Y.





**X - VS Naipaul**

**Y - Among the Believers**

**6\*.**



Though primarily known as a *beloved children's author*, due to a personal tragedy, X was also one of the pioneering inventors of a modern ventricular catheter and shunt valve. In 1960, X's son developed hydrocephalus after being struck by a taxicab. The valves used then led to many problems, so along with hydraulic engineer Stanley Wade and neurosurgeon Kenneth Till, X set about developing the Wade-\_\_\_\_-Till (X's surname) valve. While the valve could not be used with X's son, it helped several thousand children across the globe before being deemed obsolete due to better designs.

**Name the author and aviator X**



# Roald Dahl





**7.**

\_\_\_\_\_ 232 (which could be 233 depending on rounding up) is an album and a book of poems by English writer and musician Robert Calvert. The title alludes to the author destroying the earlier drafts of his work in a specific, fiery manner. It pays homage to a certain classic that dealt with something similar, albeit employing *a different scale of measurement*.

**ID the classic in question, and explain the funda behind the numerical reference.**



**Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury**

**Calvert's book is named *Centigrade 232*,**

**which is the Centigrade equivalent of**

**451°F - the temperature at which books**

**burn in Bradbury's book (just like**

**Calvert's drafts)**



# 8.

When the address X was first mentioned in 1887, it didn't actually exist. Later, during the 1930s, X did come up on \_\_\_\_\_, which was leased out to the Abbey National Bank, who were deluged with mail addressed to X's supposed bohemian resident and his combat veteran companion. The associated City Council finally relented and awarded the tag of X to a museum that came up in 1990; unfortunately, this created the peculiar issue of two X's existing, which was resolved in 2005 with the exit of Abbey National Bank from the address.

Interestingly, X is the only address in its city which is not in chronological order.





**X - 221B**

**The blanks are 'Baker Street'**

**9\*.**



**USSR's 1st Five Year Plan, which began in 1928, sought to rapidly industrialise the economy. After the first 2 years indicated that the Plan was ahead of schedule, Stalin promptly announced that it would in fact be completed in 4 years, instead of 5. This was picked up by a propagandist, who came up with a campaign featuring a particular (inaccurate) mathematical equation to promote this 'astounding success'. This equation was adopted into the world of literature, from where it spilled into public consciousness as a metaphor for how fascist regimes blur the line between fact and fiction.**

**ID the 'equation', and the work that later popularised it.**

2 + 2 = 5



Later popularised in 1984, by George Orwell



# 10.



“**\_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Bummel**” is the similarly-named sequel to a much beloved original work, narrating the travels of a very close group of friends through the German Black Forest. As is often the case with sequels, it was broadly considered a poor ‘ineffectual afterthought’, and never acquired the dizzying popularity of its predecessor. Despite superficial differences (they were not travelling on water, and they were not in England), the book retained a similar structure as the earlier work: it presented a series of humorous vignettes from the leisurely travels of a very small group of people.

**ID the predecessor.**



***Three Men in a Boat*, by Jerome K.**

**Jerome**

# 11.



**X (9 words) is the title of an opinion article by Priya Ramani published on 21st September, 2022, in which she describes why walking is her favourite activity. The title is inspired by a memoir, Y (9 words), by a bestselling Japanese author, Z, whose works have been translated and received international critical acclaim. Y talks about Z's interest and participation in long-distance running. Unknown to many, Z started running in the early 1980s, remains an avid enthusiast, and has competed in over 20 marathons and an ultramarathon.**

**ID X and Y. X differs from Y only in terms of the last word, given Ramani's preference for walking.**



**X - What I Talk About When I Talk About Walking**

**Y - What I Talk About When I Talk About Running**

# 12\*.



In 1738, a certain law made the publication of any Parliamentary debates in Britain a punishable offence. Yet, a magazine set about to publish the same surreptitiously, under a section named ‘Reports of the Debates of the Senate of X’. Their modus operandi was to make anagrams out of the names of ministers, and change the names of places, thus maintaining some deniability about the particular debates they were reproducing. In this exercise, they were helped by a contemporary author whose most famous satirical work had included the fictional land of X.

What is X, and how does it live on through the author’s work?





## **X - Lilliput**

**The author in question is Jonathan Swift, whose Gulliver's Travels has a section devoted to Lilliput**

# 13.



Originally, the number chosen for the title was 18, which refers to being 'alive' in Gematria. This was changed later upon the suggestion of the author's agent, who felt that it would be too similar to the title of another World War II book that had been recently published. 11 was on the cards till Ocean's Eleven was released in 1960. 17 and 14 were similarly proposed but ultimately rejected for one reason or the other. The number that was finally chosen satisfied all the qualities the author had in mind: it had a duplicated digit, and it could refer to the numerous déjà vu-like events strewn across the book.

ID the classic work being referred to.



# **Catch-22, by Joseph Heller**

# 14.



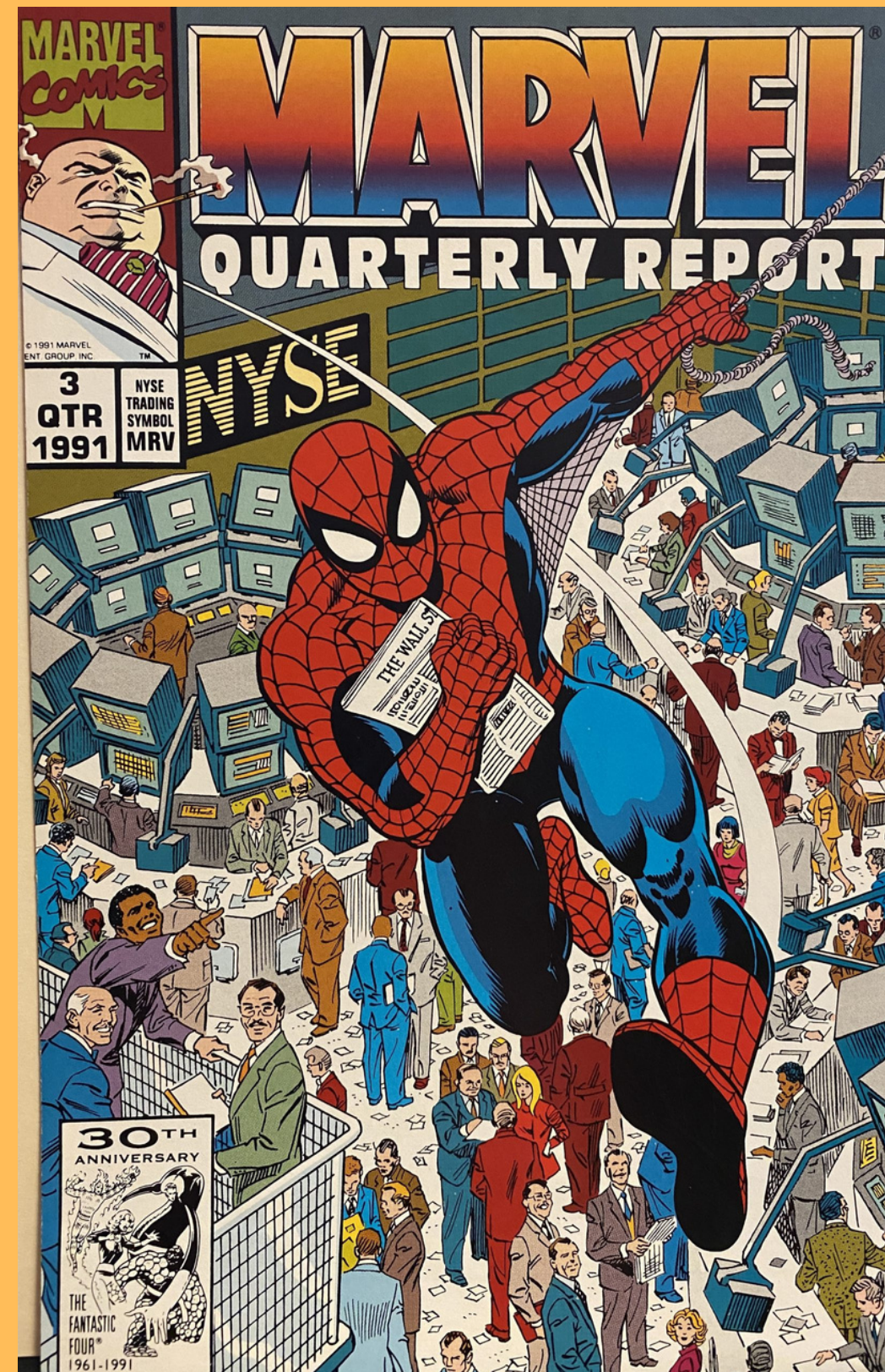
**In 1991, Ronald Perelman, the owner of Marvel Comics, launched its IPO raising more than \$63,000,000. They sought out Gary Fishman, a Wall Street investor, to facilitate this process, given his prowess with IPOs. The first requirement was the issue of quarterly and annual reports to shareholders, which was a deceptively complex task, given that the vast MCU had to be encapsulated in a dry stockholder report.**

**Somehow (in fact, quite spectacularly), they managed, deciding upon a quirky format for the report, without compromising on any statutory requirements.**

**What did they do?**



They issued reports in the form of comic books.



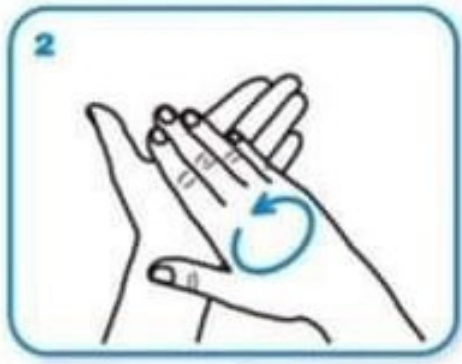
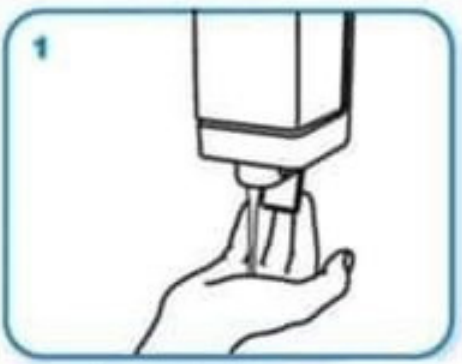
# 15\*.



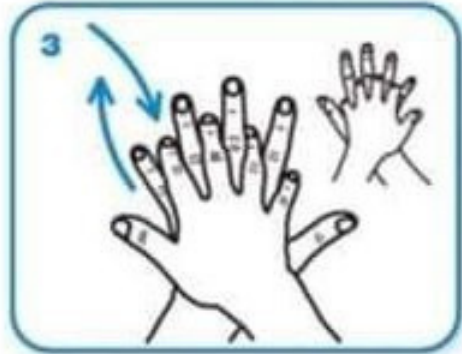
With the onset of the pandemic, hand-washing was stressed upon to reduce the risk of infection. This birthed a trend, where people replaced 'Happy Birthday' - the song conventionally used as a yardstick for the ideal time we should spend washing our hands - with other songs, quotes from literature, etc. to reduce the monotony, given the number of times the act now had to be performed.

Seen on the next slide is one such creation, which gels very well with the intended message of *repeatedly washing one's hands*.

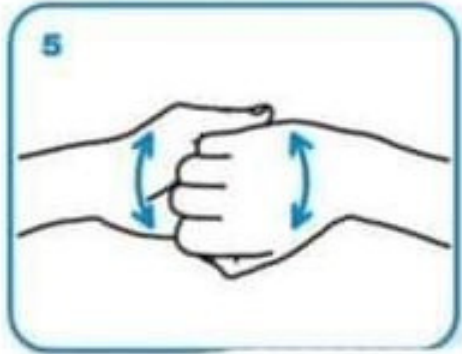
Put funda.



One, two. Why, then,



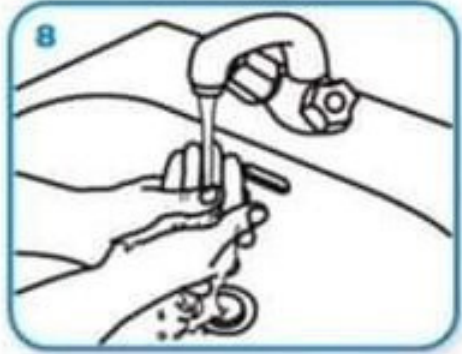
'tis time to do 't.



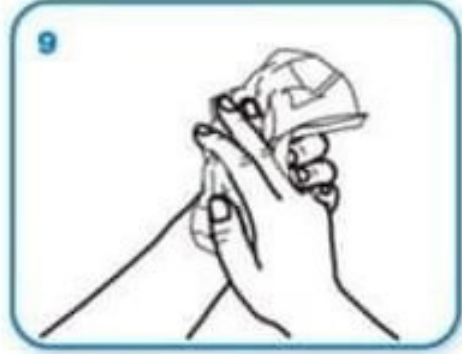
Fie, my lord, fie!



What need we fear  
who knows it,



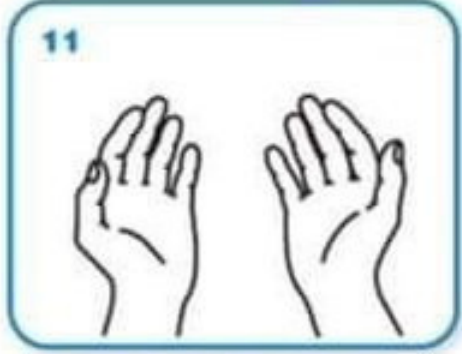
when none can call  
our power to account?



Yet who would have  
thought



the old man

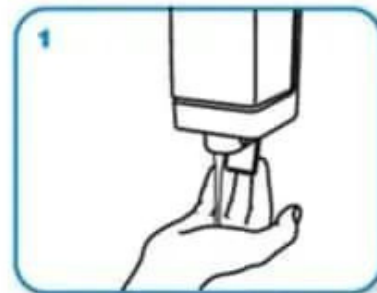




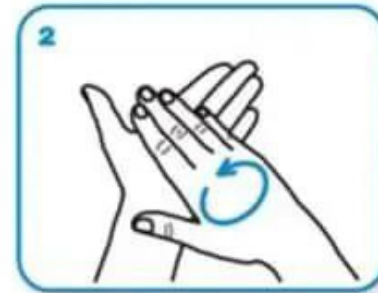
# Lady Macbeth's "Out, damned spot!" speech



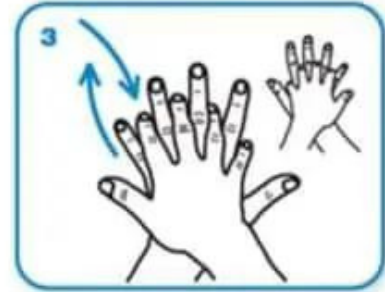
**0**  
out, damned spot!



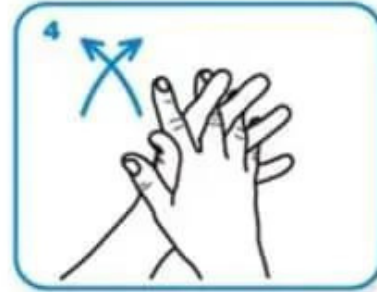
**1**  
Out, I say!



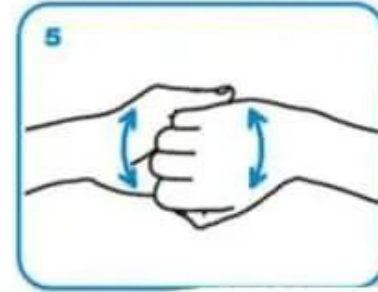
**2**  
One, two. Why, then,



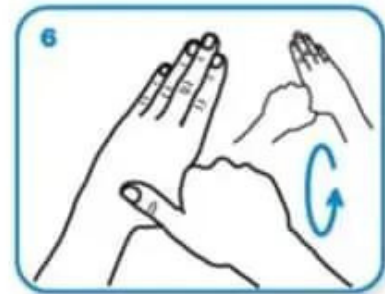
**3**  
'tis time to do 't.



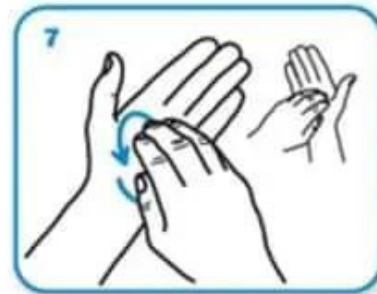
**4**  
Hell is murky!—



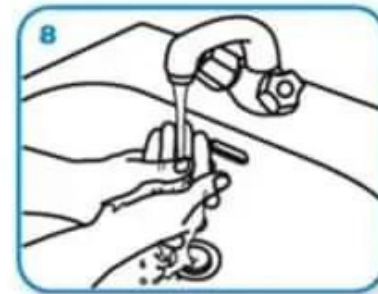
**5**  
Fie, my lord, fie!



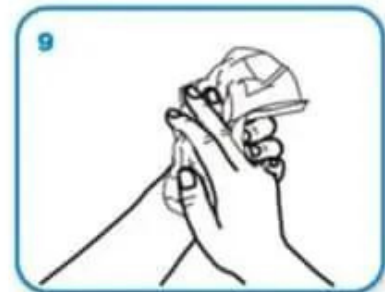
**6**  
A soldier, and afeard?



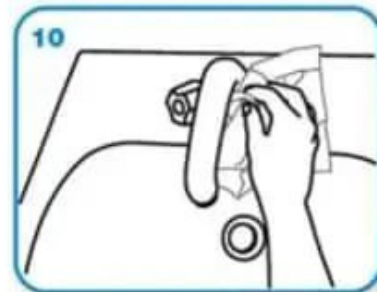
**7**  
What need we fear  
who knows it,



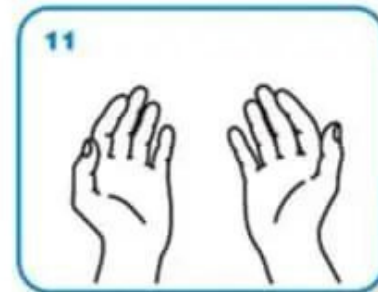
**8**  
when none can call  
our power to account?



**9**  
Yet who would have  
thought



**10**  
the old man



**11**  
to have had so  
much blood in him.