

# Curiositas

## QUIZ 1



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1. Name the song and recording artist that this photo represents.
2. What medical condition is it about?

**Aaron Vage (PhD Student,  
Centre for Medical Education,  
Queen's University Belfast).**

## QUIZ 3



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1. Name the song and recording artist that this photo represents.
2. What medical condition is it about?

**Aaron Vage (PhD Student,  
Centre for Medical Education,  
Queen's University Belfast).**

## QUIZ 2



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1. Name the song and recording artist that this photo represents.
2. What medical condition is it about?

**Aaron Vage (PhD Student,  
Centre for Medical Education,  
Queen's University Belfast).**

## QUIZ 4



This Photo by Unknown Author  
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1. Name the song and recording artist that this photo represents.
2. What medical condition is it about?

**Aaron Vage (PhD Student,  
Centre for Medical Education,  
Queen's University Belfast).**

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# Curiositas: Answers

## QUIZ 1

1 & 2. “Ballad of the Boy in the Red Shoes,” appeared on Elton John’s 2001 album, “Songs from the West Coast.” It has been suggested that John used his musical platform to tell the lyrical story of a dancer dying from acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)<sup>1</sup>, whilst showing his contempt for the Regan administration’s response to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS endemic of the 1980s<sup>2</sup>. The vast number of outcomes associated with HIV/AIDS can be attributed to the radical immune system deficiency that occurs in those infected. Mononucleosis (otherwise known as glandular fever) is commonly seen in patients presenting with a primary HIV infection, and with the passing of time many will fall victim to opportunistic infections (candidiasis, cytomegalovirus) that can signify the onset of AIDS<sup>3</sup>. Whilst there is no cure for HIV/AIDS, modern medicine has made significant advances in terms of slowing the disease’s progression; protease and integrase inhibitors, such as atazanavir and elvitegravir, block replication and disrupt genetic transfer of the virus, respectively. According to the U. S. National Library of Medicine, there are currently over 500 active HIV/AIDS-related clinical trials across the globe<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Songfacts, LLC. 2022. *Ballad of the Boy in the Red Shoes by Elton John* [Internet]. (cited 2023 Mar 7). Available from: <https://www.songfacts.com/facts/elton-john/ballad-of-the-boy-in-the-red-shoes>

<sup>2</sup>Songmeanings. 2022. *Ballad of the Boy in the Red Shoes Elton John* [Internet]. (cited 2023 Mar 7). Available from: <https://songmeanings.com/songs/view/3458764513820549663/>

<sup>3</sup>Stekler, J. & Collier, A. C. 2004. Primary HIV infection. *Current HIV/AIDS Reports*, 1, 68-73.

<sup>4</sup>U. S National Library of Medicine. 2022. *Search results for: HIV/AIDS* [Internet]. (cited 2023 Mar 7). Available from: <https://beta.clinicaltrials.gov/search?patient=hiv%2Ffands&locStr=&distance=0&aggFilters=status:act>.

## QUIZ 2

1 & 2. “Afire Love,” featured on Ed Sheeran’s second studio album, “Multiply.” In a 2014 interview with The Telegraph, Sheeran revealed that he wrote the song about his grandfather’s twenty-year battle with Alzheimer disease, and the emotional turmoil experienced as his grandfather slowly succumbed to its effects<sup>1</sup>. Alzheimer disease is a neurodegenerative condition, characterised by an insidious foray of symptoms that ultimately impair cognitive functions such as attention, memory and reasoning. The most common symptom seen in patients presenting with Alzheimer’s is episodic short-term memory loss. The degree to which executive functioning is impacted during the early stages of the disease can range from mild to severe<sup>2</sup> and, to date, there is no known cure for Alzheimer’s. Nonetheless, there are currently two drug categories approved for the symptomatic treatment of the condition: cholinesterase inhibitors, which encourage interneuron communication by acting to elevate levels of the neurotransmitter, acetylcholine, and partial N-methyl D-aspartate (NDMA) antagonist memantine, which addresses memory deficits by antagonising NDMA glutamate receptors, thus normalising the glutaminergic system.

<sup>1</sup>McClellan C. 2014. *Ed Sheeran interview: ‘I don’t make music for critics’* [Internet]. (cited 2023 Mar 7). Available from: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/music/10859780/Ed-Sheeran-interview-I-dont-make-music-for-critics.html>

<sup>2</sup>Kumar A, Sidhu J, Goyal A, Tsao JW. 2022. *Alzheimer Disease* [Internet]. (cited 2023 Mar 7). Available from: Alzheimer Disease - StatPearls - NCBI Bookshelf (nih.gov).

<sup>3</sup>Olivares D, Deshpande VK, Shi Y, Lahiri DK, Greig NH, Rogers JT, *et al.* N-methyl D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonists and memantine treatment for Alzheimer’s disease, vascular dementia and Parkinson’s disease. *Curr Alzheimer Res.* 2012;9(6):746-58

## QUIZ 3

1 & 2. The American jazz poet, Gil Scott-Heron, released “The Bottle” in 1974. Scott-Heron’s profound lyrics act as a social commentary regarding alcoholism within the African American community of Northern Virginia in the 1970s<sup>1,2</sup>. Despite the global prevalence of alcohol use disorder, its causes are incompletely understood. However, a number of factors such as cognitive function, environmental influence and social interaction are thought to play key roles in the progression of the condition<sup>3</sup>. The effects of alcohol misuse are wide reaching, impacting not only the drinker, but the healthcare system in which they inadvertently utilise. In their latest report, Public Health England released data showing that over 600,000 people within the country are dependent drinkers; further suggesting that up to 82% of these individuals still require treatment<sup>4</sup>. Whilst interventions like cognitive or dialectical behavioural therapy offer potential benefits in terms of management, there is much work to be done in the field of alcohol use disorder.

<sup>1</sup>Songfacts, LLC. 2023. *The bottle by Gil Scott-Heron* [Internet]. (cited 2023 Mar 7). Available: <https://www.songfacts.com/facts/gil-scott-heron/the-bottle>

<sup>2</sup>Romig. 2011. *Gil Scott-Heron’s “The Bottle”* [Internet]. (cited 2023 Mar 7). Available: <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/gil-scott-herons-the-bottle>

<sup>3</sup>Nehring, S. M. & Freeman, A. M. 2022. Alcohol Use Disorder [Internet]. (cited 2023 Mar 7). Available: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK436003/>

<sup>4</sup>Public Health England. 2021. *Alcohol dependence prevalence in England* [Internet]. (cited 2023 Mar 7). Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alcohol-dependence-prevalence-in-england>

## QUIZ 4

1 & 2. “Until it Sleeps” was released by Metallica in 1996. Frontman and lyricist, James Hetfield, penned the song as a means to come to terms with the death of his mother in 1979, from cancer<sup>1</sup>. In the book, “Justice for All: The Truth about Metallica,” it is suggested that Hetfield was never told what type of cancer his mother had, due to his family’s fervent belief in Christian Science<sup>2</sup>. With figures now showing that one in two people will encounter cancer at some point in their life<sup>3</sup>, the disease really needs no introduction. Billions of pounds have been spent on cancer research over the years, and whilst much has been achieved in terms of treatment for specific cancers, the disease is the cause of death in 450 people per day in the United Kingdom alone<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Nur Pervan M. 2021. *The Message James Hetfield Hid In Metallica’s Until It Sleeps* [Internet]. (cited 2023 Mar 7). Available from: <https://rockcelebrities.net/the-message-james-hetfield-hid-in-metallicas-until-it-sleeps/>

<sup>2</sup>McIver J. *Justice for All: The Truth about Metallica*. London: Omnibus Press; 2014.

<sup>3</sup>NHS. 2022. *Cancer* [Internet]. (cited 2023 Mar 7). Available from: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cancer/> [Accessed: 07/03/2023].

<sup>4</sup>World Cancer Research Fund. 2023. *UK cancer statistics* [Internet]. (cited 2023 Mar 7). Available from: <https://www.wcrf-uk.org/preventing-cancer/uk-cancer-statistics/>



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