

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Lo-Fi [Onomatopoeia] Quiz

**Instructional Post: “Splitting the Atom”**

Do a close reading of the following quotation that connects it to the main ideas of the post, “Splitting the Atom,” which accompanies Paul Graham’s “The Age of the Essay.” You may use absolutely any resource you want to do this. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper, and then staple this prompt to that paper.

*We all know that there is no quicker way to empty a joke of its peculiar magic than to try to explain it — to point out, for example, that Lou Costello is mistaking the proper name “Who” for the interrogative pronoun “who,” etc. We all know the weird antipathy such explanations arouse in us, a feeling not so much of boredom as offense, like something has been blasphemed. This is a lot like the teacher’s feeling at running a Kafka story through the gears of your standard undergrad-course literary analysis-plot to chart, symbols to decode, etc. Kafka, of course, would be in a unique position to appreciate the irony of submitting his short stories to this kind of high-efficiency critical machine, the literary equivalent of tearing the petals off and grinding them up and running the goo through a spectrometer to explain why a rose smells so pretty.*

**Skinner’s Scoring Box**

Use of Detail	[    ]/ 25
Arrangement of Ideas	[    ]/ 25
Understanding and Meaning	[    ]/ 25
Grammar + Mechanics	[    ]/ 25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>[    ]/ 100</b>