

**Proust Questionnaire with Paul Theroux**

**Your favorite virtue.** Generosity

**Your favorite qualities in a man.** That he is witty, reliable, good hearted, confident

**Your favorite qualities in a woman.** That she is witty, reliable, good hearted, confident

**Your chief characteristic.** Watchfulness

**What you appreciate the most in your friends.** Kindness

**Your main fault.** I tend to over explain, assuming that people seldom listen

**Your favorite occupation.** Writing

**Your idea of happiness.** Heading down the open road to a place I've never been

**Your idea of misery.** The human voice, endlessly chuntering, at an unwelcome time

**If not yourself, who would you be?** A designated hitter on a winning baseball team

**Where would you like to live?** Where I live now, Hawaii and Cape Cod

**Your favorite color and flower.** Green, Asiatic Day Lilies

**Your favorite prose authors.** Far too many to mention in this short space – perhaps fifty of them

**Your favorite poets.** John Donne, Wallace Stevens, Emily Dickinson, Dylan Thomas, Thomas Browne (Urn Burial), Charles Baudelaire, Philip Larkin and many others

**Your favorite heroes in fiction.** Huck Finn, Captain Ahab, Mr Kurtz (Heart Of Darkness), Mohun Biswas (A House For Mr Biswas), Charles Pooter (Diary Of A Nobody), Tolstoy's Ivan Illych, and many others

**Your favorite heroines in fiction.** Fanny Hill, Ellen Roxburgh (In Patrick White's Fringe of Leaves), Mattie Ross (In True Grit), Emma Bovary, Anna Karenina, Lolita

**Your favorite painters and composers.** J M W Turner, Stanley Spencer, Francis Bacon, Paul Gauguin, H Bosch, J E Liotard  
Composers: Mozart, Philip Glass, Bob Dylan, Chuck Berry, J S Bach