

Gordon Parks - Half Past Autumn

Of course you were awake during the video but were you paying attention? I guess we shall see...

1. Gordon Parks was born on November 30, 1912 in Fort Scott, Kansas. What was the strange thing about his birth?
2. T / F Gordon Parks was the last of 10 children.
T / F Gordon Parks finished high school magna cum laude.
T / F Gordon Parks' high school counselors discouraged him from attending college.
T / F Gordon Parks has at least 41 honorary doctorate degrees.
T / F Gordon Parks went to Juilliard to study music after his mother died.
3. T / F Gordon Parks supported himself as a Pullman porter, busboy, laborer and whorehouse piano player.
T / F Gordon Parks was married to one woman his entire life.
T / F Gordon Parks worked with Roy Stryker, Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, Russell Lee and Ben Shahn at the Farm Security Administration.
T / F Gordon Parks adopted Flavio de Silva.
T / F Gordon Parks married Gloria Vanderbilt, the fashion designer.
4. After shooting his first roll of film (which, incidentally, got him his first show in the windows of the Eastman Kodak building in Minneapolis) what happened to Gordon Parks during his first shoot as a fashion photographer at the Murphy's store?
5. When he got hired to work in Washington DC at the Farm Security Administration (FSA), Roy Stryker gave him an unusual assignment. What was the assignment and how did it go?
6. One of his most famous shots for the FSA is of Ella Watson (a cleaning lady who worked in the FSA building) in front of an American flag with a broom in one hand and a mop in the other. What is the title of this picture?
7. What was Roy Stryker's comment regarding the shot?
8. After the FSA closed in 1943, Gordon Parks landed a job at *Vogue*. Parks asked Madeline Murphy why she let him shoot fashion in her and her husband's store all those years ago when her husband clearly had doubt about hiring him. What did she say?
9. What magazine did he really want to shoot for?

10. Eventually landing the job at the magazine he was asked to shoot gangs and crime across America. He was later given a promotion which allowed him to further his accomplishments in music and also enhanced his reputation as a photographer. What was the choice promotion Gordon Parks eventually got in 1952?
11. Gordon Parks' film *Flavio* stemmed from an assignment about poverty in Latin America for a magazine. The subject of the film became a semi-celebrity when the magazine readers sent 30,000 to move him and his family out of poverty. Upon seeing Flavio again in 1999, Parks said that in regard "to molding human lives, _____ alone is not enough." Flavio told Gordon, "times are still hard but I want to make that house into a better place and then I will give it to my family." Parks commented, "Flavio is still trying to build on his own miracle."
12. Carl Mydans, a famous photographer for _____, prompted Gordon Parks to write down his stories one weekend. The next week Evan Thomas, the executive vice-president from Harper & Row Publishers, met with Parks and finally agreed to give him \$ _____ to write a novel. This was based on his writing a total of _____ pages.
13. The title of his first book was _____.
14. After shooting several stories in the South about segregation and documenting the race riots of the 1960's, Gordon Parks' employer wanted him to do a story about the Muslims in America. He met with Malcom X and then later with Elijah Muhammad two times. During the second meeting, Muhammad offered him half-a-million dollars to do a book and a film about the Muslim movement. Parks turned down the offer. How did Parks eventually get Muhammad's permission to give him access to the Nation of Islam?
15. When he was to begin the project, Elijah Muhammad told Gordon Parks, "If we like what you do we're gonna _____, if not, we'll be out to visit you."
16. What is Gordon Parks' relationship with Malcom X's family?
17. After the death of Martin Luther King Jr., Gordon Parks felt that his writings in *Life* concerning the death of King took him close to the path of violence. Parks' book, A Choice of Weapons came about from that experience and also while documenting the Black Panthers. He became convinced that _____ was more powerful.
 - a. a 45 automatic
 - b. a 35mm camera
18. _____ Gordon Parks' first film was notable in that it was the first time an African American had been offered the chance to write and direct a feature film. Parks' films include all except:
 - a. *The Learning Tree*
 - b. *The Autobiography of Malcom X*
 - c. *Shaft*
 - d. *Leadbelly*
 - e. *Solomon Northrup's Odyssey*
 - f. all of the above
19. _____ What was special about *Shaft*?
 - a. He "would risk his neck for his brother man"
 - b. It gave the African American community a bonafide cinematic hero
 - c. Isaac Hayes got a great song out of it
 - d. "He's one bad mutha...(shut your mouth))...I'm talkin' 'bout Shaft."
 - e. all of the above (...Dang right)
20. _____ Gordon Parks is
 - a. a poet/author
 - b. a photographer
 - c. a filmmaker
 - d. a composer
 - e. a painter
 - f. all of the above

Gordon Parks - Half Past Autumn key

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1. Gordon Parks was born on November 30, 1912 in Fort Scott, Kansas. What was the strange thing about his birth?
He was born dead.
2. T / F Gordon Parks was the last of 10 children.

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4. After shooting his first roll of film (which, incidentally, got him his first show in the windows of the Eastman Kodak building in Minneapolis) what happened to Gordon Parks during his first shoot as a fashion photographer at the Murphy's store?

He was double exposed all but one of his images.
5. When he got hired to work in Washington DC at the Farm Security Administration (FSA), Roy Stryker gave him an unusual assignment. What was the assignment and how did it go?
He told him go get a top coat, a meal and go to a movie. No one could find his size (they weren't looking), the restaurant would only serve him in the back alley and he couldn't get a ticket.
6. One of his most famous shots for the FSA is of Ella Watson (a cleaning lady who worked in the FSA building) in front of an American flag with a broom in one hand and a mop in the other. What is the title of this picture?

American Gothic.
7. What was Roy Stryker's comment regarding the shot?

I think you're getting the hang of it but you're going to get us all fired.
8. After the FSA closed in 1943, Gordon Parks landed a job at *Vogue*. Parks asked Madeline Murphy why she let him shoot fashion in her and her husband's store all those years ago when her husband clearly had doubt about hiring him. What did she say?
She was mad as hell at her husband.
9. What magazine did he really want to shoot for?
Life.

- [illegible]