

# *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 warehouse 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?



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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.  
T / F Gordon Parks finished high school magna cum laude.  
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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.**

