



# LIFE IS SO GOOD

BY GEORGE DAWSON AND RICHARD GLAUBMAN  
STUDY GUIDE



DAVID ZUM BRUNNEN AND MIKE WILEY IN "LIFE IS SO GOOD."

## Life Is So Good: Twentieth-century America from a different point of view.

Things to think about as you watch a performance of "Life Is So Good"...

1. What life-changing events did George Dawson witness when he was a child?
2. What major events in twentieth-century American history does George Dawson recall?
3. How would your life be different if you couldn't read?
4. How did the color of George Dawson's skin change the way he viewed twentieth-century America?
5. How did George Dawson and Richard Glaubman meet and become friends?
6. How was Richard Glaubman changed by meeting George Dawson?
7. What advice did George Dawson receive from his father?
8. What did George Dawson and Richard Glaubman have in common? What did they learn from each other?
9. What effect did civil rights, economics, war, family, faith, and work have on George Dawson?
10. Did George Dawson have access to the "American Dream?" Do you think he attained it?

## WEBSITES

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Richard Glaubman

<http://www.richardglaubman.com/>

C-Span Video with George Dawson and Richard Glaubman

<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/160150-1>

Huffington Center on Aging

<https://www.bcm.edu/research/centers/huffington-aging/index.cfm?pmid=13250>

LA Times - George Dawson Obituary

<http://articles.latimes.com/2001/jul/07/local/me-19480>

New York Times Article - At 102, a First Author Recalls Slave Relatives

<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/05/29/books/at-102-a-first-author-recalls-slave-relatives.html?pagewanted=all&src=pm>

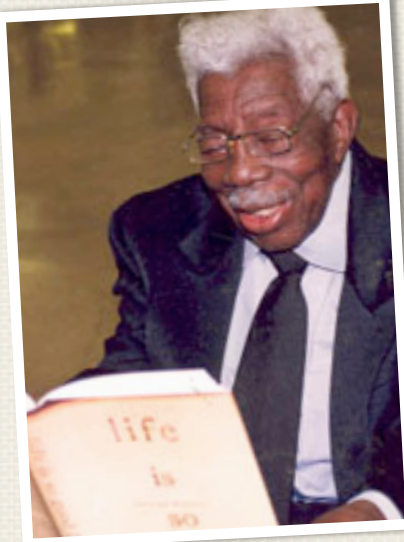
Oprah.com

[http://www.oprah.com/oprahshow/The-Greatest-Lessons-on-The-Oprah-Show\\_1/8](http://www.oprah.com/oprahshow/The-Greatest-Lessons-on-The-Oprah-Show_1/8)

## VOCABULARY WORDS & TERMS

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Centenarian, Civil-rights, colored, confederacy, corral, Cuban Missile Crisis, equality, Jim Crow, ghetto, Great Depression, Hitler, hippie, hobo, hula-hoop, inspiration, John F. Kennedy, Klan, lifetime learning, literacy, levee, lynching, overseer, racism, riding the rails, segregation, sugar cane, Tennessee Valley Authority, work ethic.

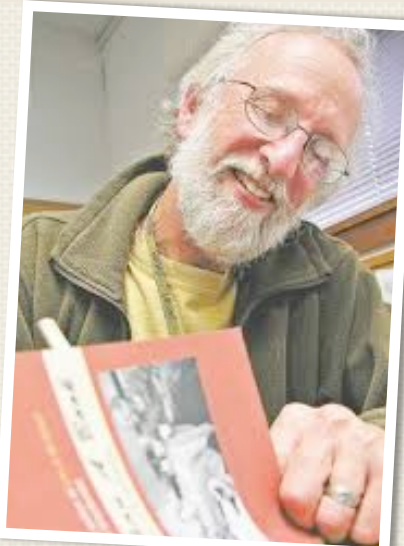


## READ ALOUD

You are never too old or too young to read out-loud to someone. Or to have someone read out-loud to you!

Choose a reading buddy and take turns reading to each other.

Reading together is the best way to promote literacy!



## INTERVIEW AN ELDER

Interview an elder who has lived through at least 60 years of American history. Ask them about major historical events that s/he witnessed from American History. Record the interview on video or audio, or take notes. Create a multi-media presentation to with the material as a historical archive.



## BE THANKFUL

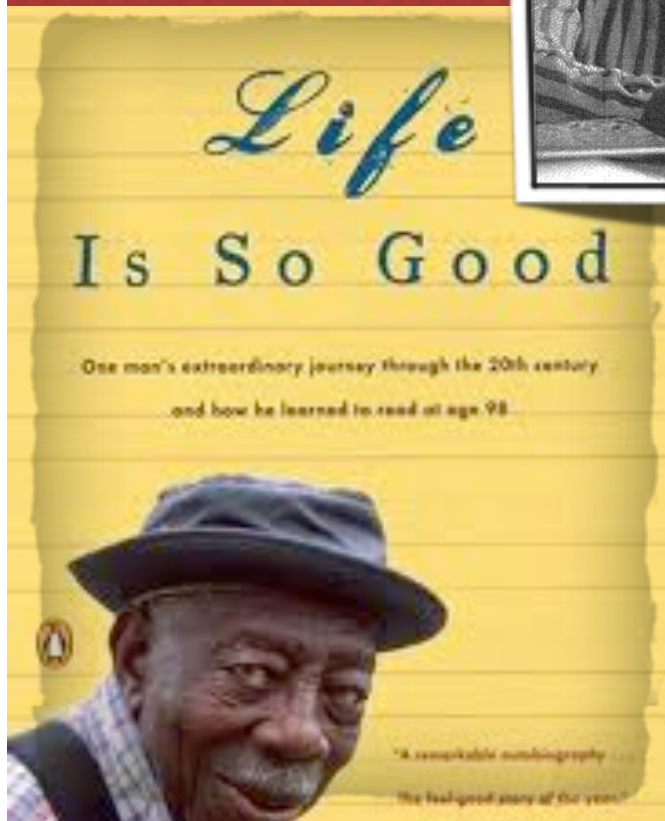
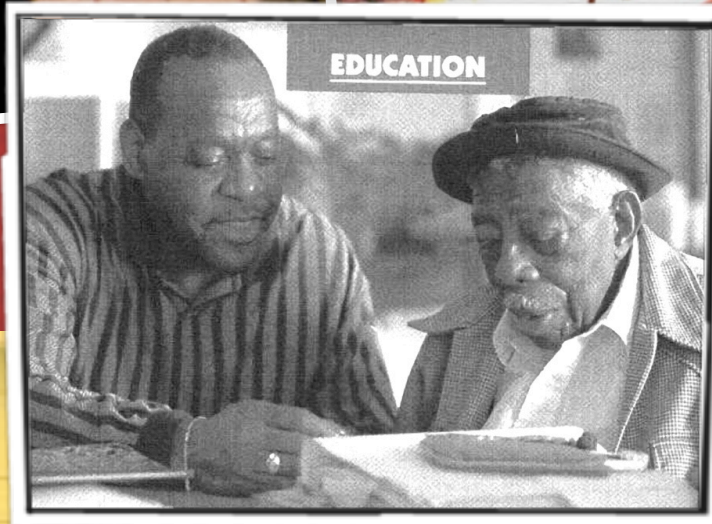
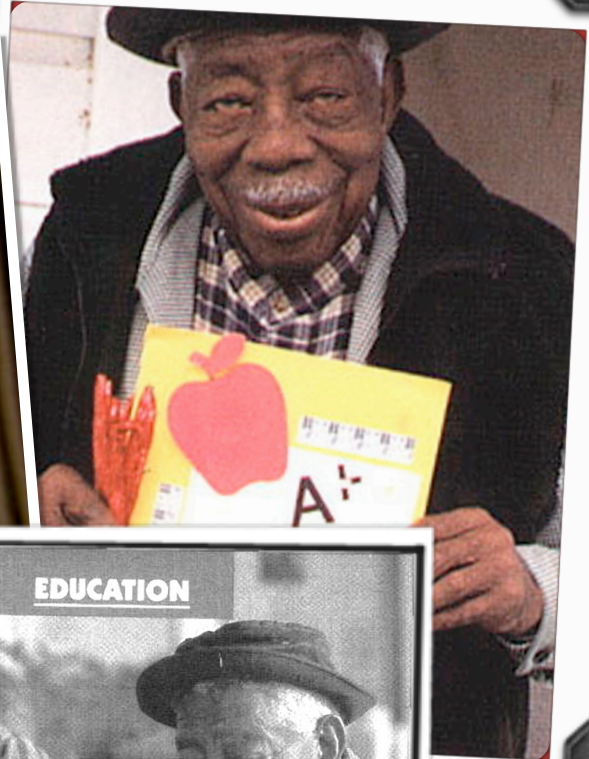
"Life is so good, and I do believe it's getting better."

-George Dawson

An attitude of gratitude. Make a list of things in your life for which you are grateful and thankful.



# LIFE IS SO GOOD



## Teachers Making A Difference.

Carl Henry taught George Dawson how to read. Mr. Henry picked George Dawson up every morning and drove him to an adult literacy class at the Lincoln Instructional Center.

"It took him about six months to learn how to read simple words," Mr. Henry said. Mr. Dawson now reads his Bible every day.

"I wanted to teach him to print," Mr. Henry remembered. But Mr. Dawson insisted on learning cursive, which was harder.

"I learned to read my ABC's in two days -- I was in a hurry," Dawson said.



# NOTABLE ELDERS AND LIFETIME LEARNERS

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Maya Angelou

Madeleine Albright

Warren Buffet

George Burns

George H.W. Bush

Billy Graham

Bob Hope

Grandma Moses

Satchel Paige

Ronald Reagan

Eleanor Roosevelt

Betty White

## **May is Older Americans Month**

May is the month designated by Presidential Proclamation in 1963 to honor older Americans every year.

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### **EBZB PRODUCTIONS**

EbzB offers professional touring theater and teaching artists; EbzB develops works to promote integrity, self-discovery and positive transformation of artists, audiences, individuals, and communities. See our other Arts-In-Education offerings, including workshops and residencies at [www.ebzb.org](http://www.ebzb.org).

### **MIKE WILEY PRODUCTIONS**

Mike Wiley Productions is a driving force in the development and promotion of documentary theatre. Led by actor and playwright, Mike Wiley, Each work in the company's repertoire is designed to inspire audiences to examine America's racial history, teach the lessons of the past and encourage the application of these truths to the present. [www.mikewileyproductions.com](http://www.mikewileyproductions.com)

Photos: Actors David zum Brunnen and Mike Wiley in "Life Is So Good"

