



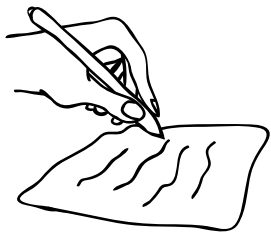
Lyman Allyn

Book of the Month

Telling a Story

As a photojournalist Gordon Parks' work tells a story. Over the course of his life the topics he covered a wide range of topics and subjects, from black Americans facing racism to the famous and fashionable of Europe. Regardless of the subject, Parks took care to produce work that told a story.

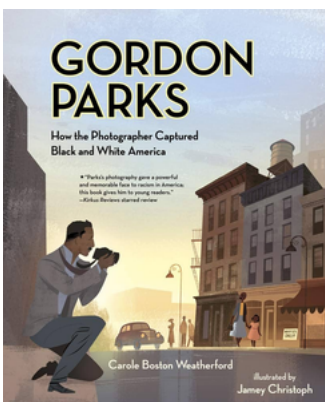
The companion art project this month will once again have you reaching for a camera as well as a pen. Through a series of photographs, you will create a photo essay composed of a minimum of five photographs. Begin by determining what story you want your story to tell. It may be focusing on a specific person, place, or a broader theme. With your focus in mind, begin creating your photographs. While you're out photographing, experiment with composition, lighting, and style. It is likely you will be using your phone to capture these images, allowing you greater flexibility to photograph the same scene multiple times, making small or large adjustments between each shot. Assembling our photo series will be easier when you have more images to choose from rather than looking back wishing you had made other choices in the moment.



Half Past Autumn: A Retrospective not only shares an overview of Park's work, but with short essays, readers are given a glimpse at the broader context of the selected photographs. Once you have finished gathering your photo series, create a written explanation. This may be in the form of a poem, short story, essay, or detailed captions. While we want your images to be able to stand alone, the written component provides context that the photograph just cannot provide on their own.

We look forward to seeing what you create! Share your creations with us using #LymanAllynAtHome.

February 2026



As we look ahead to a spring full of photography exhibitions, for our February book of the month highlights renowned U.S. documentary photojournalist Gordon Parks. Throughout his life, Parks experienced racism and used his art to document and challenge the injustices he witnessed.

For younger readers, Carole Boston Weatherford's "Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America" offers an engaging biography told through lyrical verse. Adult readers may enjoy "Half Past Autumn: A Retrospective," published alongside an exhibition and documentary film (available online) that chronicles Parks' life and work.

