

Forrest Gump Study Guide

“Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you’re gonna get.”

Forrest Gump is the unlikely story of a slow-witted but good-hearted man somehow at the center of pivotal events of the 20th century. Tom Hanks plays the title character, a shy Southern boy who finds that his ability to run fast takes him places. Despite success in college athletics, military service, and his own multi-million-dollar business, he still yearns for the love of his life, who takes a quite different and much sadder path in life.

1. The opening and closing credits use the same motif. How is it related to the movie?

2. The first part of the movie is told in flashback. From time to time, the director returns to Forrest telling the story to people at the bus stop. Describe the people he talks to on the bench, their wardrobe, and what they say to him.

Person	Wardrobe	Dialogue

3. What historical personalities and newsworthy events are featured in the movie?

(a) Who stays at his mother’s boarding house? _____

(b) What happens at the University of Alabama ? _____

(c) Who gives him a sports award at the White House? _____

(d) What famous hotel does he stay in Washington? _____

(e) Who awards him the Medal of Honour? _____

(f) Who appears with him on a talk show? _____

(g) What 1970s trend does he launch while wiping mud off his face? _____

4. What scene does the director repeat from Forrest's childhood as a transition to adulthood?

5. What visual and audio clues do the producers use to represent the different eras in the film?

Era	Music	Scenery
1950s		
1960s		
1970s		
1980s		

6. What product placements were used in the film? _____

7. How were special effects used in the film? _____

8. The Vietnam battle is shown from Forrest's point of view. How does it impact the scene?

9. The film became a phenomenon in the 1990s, primarily because of the philosophical advice of Forrest Gump or "Gumpisms". Write the memorable "Gumpism" and explain its significance to the movie.

"Gumpism"	Significance