



Answers

1. **(00:00-00:42) INTERVIEWER:** What does the interviewer think about the book, and why did he have to change his plans?
He thought that the book was so much fun. He was really into it. He had planned just to read/listen for 15 minutes but then the book sucked him in. He ended up reading it in almost 1 shot.
- (00:44-01:00) The interviewer asks: “what was the origin behind wanting to write the book?”**
2. **(01:00-01:24)** What had Matthew McConaughey been threatening to do for 15 years?
He had been threatening to go away and see if 36 years of diaries were worthy of putting into book form, but never had the courage to do it.
4. **(01:24-01:34)** What potential reason did he give for finally deciding to write the book?
He eventually reached 50 years of age, and although he’s not a numerologist whereby he might feel that he has to do something by a certain time, he thinks that this maybe had something to do with it.
5. **(01:34-01:50)** What did he decide to do first in order to set about writing the book, and what happened after?
He hired a ghostwriter to help him; they had one meeting and then he got pulled from the job by his boss. He then decided, with the backing of his wife, to take this chest of journals and see what he had.
6. **(01:50-01:56)** What was one aspect about the book which didn’t turn out as he expected?
He thought that the book was going to be more academic than it ended up being.
7. **(01:56-02:19)** What did he do in the early part of the writing process in order to allow the book to materialise?
He decided to look at what he had and let it reveal itself. What revealed itself was stories, people, places, prescriptions, poems, prayers and a whole lot of bumper stickers. The central theme that came from those was the title Green Lights.
8. **(02:19-02:39) INTERVIEWER:** The interviewer mentions a quote from Gore Vidal, which influences the core topic of the book. Can you get the exact quote?
Style is knowing who you are, what you have to say and not giving a damn.
9. **(02:39-02:55) INTERVIEWER:** What brief story does the interviewer give to explain how Matthew McConaughey started out as an actor?
He was a completely unknown kid working in a bar and then a producer happened to come by.



Answers

9. (02:55-04:26) What does Matthew McConaughey say about studying yourself, and what process does he advise to carry out in order to find yourself?
What better subject to study than ourselves? We are the one character that we should never get bored of chasing to figure out, but we are also the one character that we can't get away from. He has enjoyed and not enjoyed investigating himself throughout his life. He has learnt by process of elimination to get rid of the things that are not 'me', or things which are just a 'fad' and not 'classic'. Some pursuits may be temporary 'green lights' but they're not 'solar-powered green lights'. Figure out who we are 'not' first.
10. Based on what you have heard, what do you think the title of the book "Green Lights" is referring to?
Potentially, green lights are something that allow us to proceed in finding who we truly are.
- Part 2:**
12. (53:21-54:40) What are some values that people will get more out of their own lives if they embrace, and what do these values build?
That there is a responsibility to freedom and that there is freedom in responsibility. We remember the things that we earn; they build resilience and a healthy true optimism going forward.
13. (54:40-54:49) What is 'delayed gratification'?
Choices that you make for yourself today that will pay you back later in life.
14. (54:58-55:12) What are the exact words that Matthew McConaughey uses in these 15 seconds? (CLUE: He also supports the opposite of delayed gratification)
[see page 5 for the answer along with a breakdown of the Texas accent]



Answer to Question 14 and Guide to Some Features of a Texas Accent

Transcript of the video (54:58-55:12)

Key - Some differences between a Texas accent and Standard English:

“Southern drawl”: longer, slower vowel sounds, which almost turn into two sounds

Red text ‘orr’ sounds like in the word ‘all’ are pronounced like a long ‘aa’ sound with a very small e sound on the end.

This is a classic for most southern US accents.

Green text ‘i’ sound as in ‘I’ and ‘time’ is often pronounced very long and quite nasal, as in ‘aah’.

This is also classic for most southern US accents.

Blue text ‘a’ sound as in ‘cat’ is much longer, like an ‘aa’.

Other features

Brown text ‘t’ sounds are often pronounced like a very quickly tapped ‘d’ sound in the middle of a word. This is most classically demonstrated with the word ‘water’, which is pronounced ‘waader’ with a very quick and smooth ‘d’ in the middle.

Purple Text or/ur/ir sounds as in ‘work/turn/first/girl’ are pronounced with a much more ‘urr’ sound. The sound begins with an ‘uh’ sound, and then the ‘r’ is also very long and emphasised.

Small text ‘filler’ words such as ‘are / a / can / of / for / from’ are sometimes reduced to fairly quick sounds which are hard to hear. Each of these words contains some form of ‘schwa’ sound, which is a kind of lazy ‘uh’ sound. This occurs in all UK and US accents, although as you can see below, these ‘filler’ words are not always shortened in a Texan accent, especially because vowels are often pronounced much longer in general.

Grey text The real transcript of the video

aah’m aa_ell_{fer} heedonism, aah’m aa_ell_{fer} immediate gradification too, sometaa_emes
I’m all for hedonism, I’m all for immediate gratification too, sometimes

it’s like yes dude its like halloween ead aa_ell_{the} caandy you waa_ent, go for it, It’s not
it’s like yes dude its like halloween eat all the candy you want, go for it, It’s not

gonna become a haabit day_{de} day. There’s surrtain nights where you’re laahk hey guys
gonna become a habit day to day. There’s certain nights where you’re like hey guys

tonight we’re gonna blow id out. The waa_ells_{er} paadded_n we’re oaff wurrk on Monday.
tonight we’re gonna blow it out. The walls are padded and we’re off work on Monday.

Let’s go.

Let’s go.