

DAMON RUNYON QUIZ

FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

To help promote your production and spur interest in the play, we've put together a multiple-choice quiz that was used during the World Premiere production in New York City over social media outlets to increase visibility for the show. As you'll see below in the suggested directions, the quiz was presented weekly beginning just before performances started through just before the end of the run, and the winners from each week were offered a pair of tickets to the production. Of course, you can adjust this as you see fit: offer more questions each week with fewer weeks; offer other incentives to winners, etc.

TEST YOUR DAMON RUNYON IQ, WIN VALUABLE PRIZES!

Based on two short stories by Damon Runyon (whose writing served as the inspiration for the musical *Guys and Dolls*), *Three Wise Guys* remains true to the language, humor, and plot twists of a man who, in the words of biographer John Mosedale, "invented Broadway."

Each week you'll have the opportunity to check your Runyon knowledge and win a pair of tickets to *THREE WISE GUYS* by entering in the Damon Runyon Quiz. The winner, selected from all the correct entries, will receive a pair of tickets to *Three Wise Guys*.

CONTEST RULES:

- *New questions will be posted every Monday from _____ through _____.*
- *One winner will be selected at random from participants with the most correct answers; entries must be received by 5 p.m. every Friday; winner will be announced the following Monday.*
- *Winning tickets available for evening performances only; no matinees. Tickets subject to availability.*
- *Only one entry per person per week.*
- *An entrant may win only once during the contest period.*
- *Please include your full name in response and indicate if you do not want your full name disclosed as a winner.*
- *No purchase necessary to enter or win.*

WEEK 1

1. What Damon Runyon story has been adapted into at least four films?
 - a) "Lady for a Day"
 - b) "Little Miss Marker"
 - c) "Guys and Dolls"
 - d) "Butch Minds the Baby"

2. Runyon's character Dave the Dude is modeled on what well-known mob boss?
 - a) Frank Costello
 - b) Al Capone
 - c) Vito Corleone
 - d) Jimmy Hoffa

3. When Damon Runyon lived in New York City, he was a heavy drinker. What was his drink of choice?
 - a) Rye whiskey
 - b) Gin
 - c) Coffee
 - d) Tom & Jerry

4. The Damon Runyon Stakes are held each year in December. At what track is this race for thoroughbreds generally run?
 - a) Santa Anita
 - b) Daytona Beach
 - c) Hialeah
 - d) Aqueduct

5. In 1852 Damon Runyon's Eastern grandparents led a gold-seeking expedition to the West. They got as far as Kansas, where they settled a village on the prairie. What did the settlers name the town?
 - a) Prairie City, KS
 - b) Furthermore, KS
 - c) Manhattan, KS
 - d) Broadway, KS

WEEK 2

6. When a Runyon character "puts his checks back in the rack," what has he or she done?

- a) Died
- b) Retired
- c) Gone to prison
- d) Clocked out from work

7. Complete these lines from a Damon Runyon poem:

"Son," he said, "you're goin' away,
Into the world so cold and gray,
And son," he said, "all I've got to say
Is don't play 'em _____."

- a) until you pray
- b) unless you got 'em
- c) but hold 'em close
- d) till you find Broadway

8. What William Randolph Hearst newspaper brought Runyon to New York in 1911?

- a) *New York Evening Journal*
- b) *Newark Evening Gazette*
- c) *New York Daily Mirror*
- d) *New York American*

9. Director Frank Capra made the first film based on a Damon Runyon short story. What is the name of the film?

- a) *Lady for a Day*
- b) *Say It with Sables*
- c) *Broadway Bill*
- d) *Guys and Dolls*

10. The upcoming [NAME OF THEATER] production of *Three Wise Guys* is based on two Damon Runyon Christmas stories, "Dancing Dan's Christmas" and "The Three Wise Guys." Name another Runyon story set at Christmastime.

- a) "A Holly Sprig Straight through the Heart"
- b) "New York Christmas Caper"
- c) "Palm Beach Santa Claus"
- d) "Ho-Ho Harry"

WEEK 3

11. "Damon" was actually Runyon's middle name. What was his first name?

- a) Alfred
- b) Albert
- c) Julian
- d) Aloysius

12. What title did Runyon bestow on the Yankees slugger Babe Ruth?

- a) Sheik of the Streak
- b) The Beezark of Kerblam
- c) The Maharajah of Might
- d) Sultan of Swat

13. In his Broadway stories, what name did Runyon use for his friend and fellow New York columnist Walter Winchell?

- a) Weldon Weiner
- b) Willy Windsor
- c) Wilfred Westham
- d) Waldo Winchester

14. Name at least one Runyon story that is a source for the Broadway musical *Guys and Dolls*.

- a) "The Idyll of Sarah Brown"
- b) "Blood Pressure"
- c) "Pick the Winner"
- d) All of the above

15. When Runyon met Ellen Egan, the woman who would become his first wife, what was her job?

- a) Bookie
- b) Society reporter
- c) Waitress at Lindy's
- d) Chorus Girl

WEEK 4

16. Probably the best-known Runyon poem is about a jockey who was good at "bootin' a winner in." What is the name of the poem?

- a) "A Handy Guy Like Sande"
- b) "Kansas Slim"
- c) "The Legend of Boojum"
- d) "Get Me Tiny Tim!"

17. What is the name of the character who narrates all of Runyon's Broadway stories?

- a) Broadway Joe
- b) Dave
- c) Johnny
- d) None of the above

18. Bob Hope and Marilyn Maxwell introduced a modern Christmas carol in a 1951 film loosely based on a Damon Runyon story. What carol did they sing, and what is the name of the film?

- a) "White Christmas" in *Holiday Inn*
- b) "Silver Bells" in *The Lemon Drop Kid*
- c) "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" from *Meet Me in St. Louis*
- d) "Baby, It's Cold Outside" from *The Big Street*

19. In 1919 Runyon wrote a series of biographical articles about a boxer soon to challenge the world's heavyweight champion, Jess Willard. Who was the challenger?

- a) Gene Tunney
- b) Mr. T
- c) Jack Dempsey
- d) Rocky Balboa

20. Runyon's stories were primarily published in two magazines. Name at least one of them.

- a) *Cosmopolitan*
- b) *McClure's*
- c) *Collier's*
- d) *Lady's Day*

WEEK 5

21. What New York mayor married Runyon and his second wife, Patrice Amati Del Grande Gidier, in 1932?

- a) John P. O'Brien
- b) Jimmy Walker
- c) Fiorello LaGuardia
- d) Abe Beame

22. In 1930 Runyon wrote a story called "Lillian." Who is Lillian?

- a) A race horse
- b) A black cat
- c) A cab-driver's daughter
- d) A homeless woman

23. What performer appeared on Broadway in *Guys and Dolls* and in the first episode of the 1955–56 television series *Damon Runyon Theater*?

- a) Robert Alda
- b) Stubby Kaye
- c) Vivian Blaine
- d) Marlon Brando

24. What was Damon Runyon's favorite card game?

- a) Gin rummy
- b) Blackjack
- c) Poker
- d) Crazy Eights

25. In Runyon's story "Sense of Humor," Joe the Joker enjoys giving citizens of Broadway a "hot foot." How does one give a hot foot?

- a) Stick a paper match in a guy's shoe and light the match.
- b) Throw a guy's shoe into the fireplace.
- c) Rub the bottom of a guy's shoe with sandpaper.
- d) Pour hot coffee down a guy's sock.

WEEK 6

26. What film based on a Runyon story was shot partly in Disneyland?

- a) *A Pocketful of Miracles*
- b) *40 Pounds of Trouble*
- c) *Money from Home*
- d) *Lady for a Day*

27. Damon Runyon collaborated on a Broadway play that ran for 69 performances in 1935. What was the play, and who was Runyon's writing partner?

- a) *Come and Get It*, Edna Ferber
- b) *A Slight Case of Murder*, Howard Lindsay
- c) *Seeing Stars*, Guy Bolton
- d) *You're Killin' Me*, P. G. Wodehouse

28. In 1929 Runyon sold his first two Broadway stories to *Cosmopolitan* for \$800 apiece. What top price was he eventually paid for his short stories?

- a) \$1,000
- b) \$25,000
- c) \$10,000
- d) \$5,000

29. In Runyon's world, what is a "boat race"?

- a) A crooked horse race
- b) A sure thing
- c) A dull boxing match
- d) The World Cup

30. In 1942 Runyon worked as a film producer for five months at RKO, making a film based on one of his short stories. What movie did he produce?

- a) *The Big Street*
- b) *Lady for a Day*
- c) *The Lemon Drop Kid*
- d) *Guys and Dolls*

WEEK 7

31. What is it that Runyon's character Nicely-Nicely Jones "dearly loves to commit"?

- a) Mayhem
- b) Eating
- c) Singing
- d) Perjury

32. Runyon wrote a series of stories about an everyday American couple named Joe and Ethel Turp. Where do the Turps live?

- a) Yonkers
- b) Brooklyn
- c) Staten Island
- d) Kansas

33. Upon his death, Runyon's ashes were scattered over Broadway from an Eastern Airlines transport. What famous flyer, a long-time friend of Runyon's, fulfilled the author's request?

- a) Eddie Rickenbacker
- b) Amelia Earhart
- c) Gregory "Pappy" Boyington
- d) Baron Von Richthofen

34. When Runyon was 11, an older newspaperman in Colorado helped the young writer get a poem published in the *Pueblo Chieftain*. Who was this man?

- a) Runyon's former high school teacher
- b) Runyon's uncle
- c) The *Chieftain's* editor
- d) Runyon's father

35. The restaurant that Runyon called Mindy's in his stories was modeled on Lindy's, where Runyon had a regular table. Where was Lindy's (the original 1921 restaurant, not the later annex) located?

- a) 4465 Grand Concourse, Bronx
- b) West 14th Street, Manhattan
- c) 1626 Broadway, between 49th and 50th, Manhattan
- d) In the Chrysler Building on Lexington Ave, Manhattan

WEEK 8

36. In Runyon's lexicon, what is a "croaker"?

- a) An undertaker
- b) A doctor
- c) A skilled gunman
- d) None of the above

37. In the 1930s Runyon wrote a newspaper column about public affairs for the Hearst newspapers. What was the title of the column?

- a) "As I See It"
- b) "This Is Now"
- c) "Everyday Dateline"
- d) "My View from Broadway"

38. Runyon was posthumously inducted into two sports Halls of Fame. Name the two sports.

- a) Baseball and Horse Racing
- b) Horse Racing and Boxing
- c) Jai Alai and Lacrosse
- d) Baseball and Boxing

39. Between his two marriages, Runyon lived in the penthouse of a hotel on 49th and Broadway. What was the name of the hotel?

- a) The Forrest Hotel
- b) The Belvedere Hotel
- c) The Continental Hotel
- d) The Heartbreak Hotel

40. Runyon has been quoted as saying, "The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but that is the way to bet." What book is the original quote from?

- a) *Sense and Sensibility*
- b) *Pudd'nhead Wilson*
- c) The Bible
- d) *A Lady's Guide to Homemaking*

Answer Key:

1. b: "Little Miss Marker"
2. a: Frank Costello
3. c: Coffee
4. d: Aqueduct
5. c: Manhattan, KS

6. a: Died
7. b: "unless you've got 'em."
8. d: *New York American*
9. a: *Lady for a Day* (1933)
10. c: "Palm Beach Santa Claus"

11. a: Alfred
12. b: The Beezark of Kerblam
13. d: Waldo Winchester
14. d: All of the above
15. b: Society reporter—specifically, assistant to the society editor of Denver's *Rocky Mountain News*.

16. a: "A Handy Guy Like Sande"
17. d: None of the above. He is never named in Runyon's stories, though a radio show from 1949, *The Damon Runyon Theater*, gave him the name Broadway.
18. b: "Silver Bells" in *The Lemon Drop Kid*
19. c: Jack Dempsey
20. a or c: *Cosmopolitan* or *Collier's*

21. b: Jimmy Walker
22. b: A black cat
23. c: Vivian Blaine
24. a: Gin Rummy
25. a: Stick a paper match in a guy's shoe and light the match.

26. b: *40 Pounds of Trouble* (1962)

27. b: *A Slight Case of Murder*, written with Howard Lindsay

28. d: \$5,000

29. a: A crooked horse race

30. a: *The Big Street*

31. b: Eating

32. b: Brooklyn

33. a: Eddie Rickenbacker

34. d: Runyon's father (Alfred Lee Runyan)

35. c: 1626 Broadway, between 49th and 50th

36. b: A doctor

37. a: "As I See It"

38. d: Baseball and boxing

39. a: The Forrest Hotel

40. c: The Bible