

Green Book Movie Discussion Questions

1. What year is the film setting of the *Green Book*?
2. How do the two main characters differ?
3. Although Don Shirley did not personally know Tony Vallelonga, he hired him anyway. Why?
4. What did you think of Shirley asking Tony's wife for permission to take him on tour?
5. Do you feel the events in the story are true to life, and why?
6. Who is holding the *Green Book* copy of the paperback in the film? Why?
7. Do you think perhaps other groups had similar travel guides then and perhaps now? Do you know of any such guides?
8. Did you previously know about sundown towns?
9. How do they deal with different rules when they both cannot eat or sleep in the same location?
10. Do you think Jim Crow was worse in the south than elsewhere? Do you think Jim Crow was actually everywhere and still is in many ways, or do you think society has improved?

11. The *Green Book* is based on interviews as well as letters written during the tour. Did you realize the movie was based on real-life before or after viewing? How does knowing it is a true story affect your feelings about the film?

12. There is some controversy surrounding the film. Many films based on true life have to be adjusted for the story to be conveyed through sight and sound. Did you feel it represented the actual truth? Do you think it deserved the many awards it won?

13. Why do you think Don Shirley wanted it released after his death?

14. How does Tony help Don in some specific situations? Do you think the tour would have been successful without Tony? Do you think without calling Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy the story would have turned out the same way?

15. Tony gets home for Christmas but not because he can finish the drive through the snow. How does the film end?

16. Don Shirley's degrees in real life were honorary. Do you think in another era they would have been earned?

17. The film is said to show a white savior. Do you feel that is true or do you believe the two men became friends? The family says they had a professional relationship only, but there are videos revealing friendship. Either way, is it important to the film?

18. Would you recommend the film to others? Why or why not?