

Programming: A True Likeness: Richard Roberts' Legacy

Assignment(s): Watch the documentary *A True Likeness* and answer the questions below.

1. Richard Samuel Roberts was a prolific and successful African American photographer in Columbia, SC. Why are his photographs so important for analyzing history?
2. Thanks to Hattie May Cornwell, the researchers were able to determine those individuals in the photographs of Richard Samuel Roberts. What roles do older Americans play in analyzing historical evidence?
3. When Richard Samuel Roberts moves to Columbia, the city is extremely segregated. What effect did this have on African Americans? How did African Americans persevere during this time?
4. How did the photographs of Richard Samuel Roberts break period stereotypes, and to faithfully capture the spirits of African Americans in the 1920's and 1930's?

Activity

Choose one of the photographs featured in the documentary, *A True Likeness*. Analyze the photograph using the following prompts*:

- a) Observe: Describe what you see. What do you notice first? What is the physical setting?
- b) Reflect: What's happening in this image? Who do you think the audience is for this image? What can you learn from examining this image?
- c) Question: What do you wonder about ... who? What do you wonder about ... why?
- d) Further investigation: What more do you want to know about and how can you find out? What entertainers would you invite to perform? Design a poster to promote the act.
- e) Photography has changed tremendously from the days of Richard Samuel Roberts and today. How is photography the same, and how is it different?

*- from the Library of Congress' Primary Source Analysis Tool (<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/primary-source-analysis-tool/>)

