Margaret Walker
Alexander Trivia
Inspired by Margaret Walker’s epic poem, “This is My Century: Black Synthesis of Time,” the current reinstallation of our Mississippi galleries is an exhibition titled “New Symphony of Time” which expands and illuminates the boundaries of Mississippi’s narrative.

Alex O'Neal, "Self-mourning, Dying Dream Façade," 2017, acrylic and collage on canvas, 36 x 35 in., Loan courtesy of the artist. © Alex O'Neal.
WHERE WAS MARGARET WALKER BORN?
A. JACKSON, MS
B. MEMPHIS, TN
C. BIRMINGHAM, AL
I Want to Write
by Margaret Walker

I want to write
I want to write the songs of my people.
I want to hear them singing melodies in the dark.
I want to catch the last floating strains from their sob-torn throats.
I want to frame their dreams into words; their souls into notes.
I want to catch their sunshine laughter in a bowl;
fling dark hands to a darker sky
and fill them full of stars
then crush and mix such lights till they become
a mirrored pool of brilliance in the dawn.

Hint:
This was the poem!

HOW OLD WAS WALKER WHEN SHE WAS PUBLISHED IN "THE CRISIS?"
A. 13
B. 16
C. 22
D. 25

NAACP MAGAZINE, THE CRISIS, DATED APRIL 1969
COMMENORATING DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
WHAT IS THE TITLE OF HER ONLY NOVEL (A NEO-SLAVE NARRATIVE)?
A. BELOVED
B. JUBILEE
C. TWELVE YEARS A SLAVE
WHICH OF THESE WRITERS WAS A MAJOR INFLUENCE FOR WALKER?
A. LANGSTON HUGHES
B. WILLIAM FAULKNER
C. RICHARD WRIGHT
D. ALL OF THE ABOVE
AFTER WRITING THE VOLUME OF 1942 POETRY FOR MY PEOPLE, SHE BECAME THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN TO WIN THE YALE YOUNGER POETS PRIZE.
A. TRUE
B. FALSE
WHILE TEACHING AT JSU, WALKER ESTABLISHED THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE HISTORY, LIFE, AND CULTURE OF BLACK PEOPLE. IT IS NOW KNOWN AS THE MARGARET WALKER CENTER.

WHAT YEAR DID SHE ESTABLISH THIS INSTITUTE?
A. 1968
B. 1964
C. 1962
Thanks for playing!

answer key
1. c
2. b
3. b
4. d
5. a
6. a

NOW CHECK OUT SOME OF MARGARET WALKER'S WORKS!