

Who Am I? – Celebrating a mystery person



Print a “Who Am I?” [sign](#). Add a clue in the text box, print, and post on your bulletin board. Post a different clue every day or so and see who can guess the identity of the mystery person of the month. Then plan a “Who am I?” discussion and reminiscence activity.

Do you know who I am? Here are some clues:

1. I was born on February 2, 1947.
2. I am the youngest of two daughters.
3. My family is Catholic.
4. As a young woman, I had a knack for theater.
5. I loved drawing and painting.
6. I originally pursued a degree in microbiology, but I switched my major to my passion: art.
7. I have advocated for the health and safety of women in abusive relationships worldwide.
8. In 2007, a documentary chronicling my health struggles was released.
9. I struggled with cancer during the last years of my life.
10. I used my experiences with cancer to push for awareness and support for those who struggle with it.
11. I have one child named Redmond.
12. A foundation bearing my name was started in 2007 and was devoted to research about, assistance with, and prevention of cancer.
13. I passed away in 2009.
14. I am a famous model and actress who started her career in the late 1960s.
15. I received a posthumous tribute at the 2009 Primetime Emmy Awards.
16. I had a few small roles in shows like *The Flying Nun* and *The Partridge Family*.
17. I earned a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1995.

18. A Barbie doll with my hairstyle was created in 1977.
19. I starred in *Saturn 3* alongside Kirk Douglas and Harvey Keitel.
20. I left the show that made me famous in order to branch out and diversify my career.
21. My beautiful, golden hair is one of my most recognizable traits.
22. I married the famous actor Lee Majors in 1973; we separated in 1979.
23. I starred in the television series *The Burning Bed*, in which I played an abused woman who takes revenge on her abuser.
24. My “red swimsuit” poster is one of the most iconic images of me.
25. I played Jill Munroe in the television series *Charlie’s Angels*.

Can you guess who I am? I am Farrah Fawcett.



Print a copy of the [pictures](#) to pass around as you share and discuss the information in the article with your group. Play the [Charlie’s Angels opening theme](#) to set the mood.

Introduction

Farrah Fawcett, an emblematic figure of the 1970s, shone brilliantly in the galaxy of Hollywood stars. With her iconic feathered hairstyle and beaming smile, she quickly rose to international fame, gracing the small screen in the popular series *Charlie’s Angels*. Beyond her beauty and media persona, Fawcett was a committed actress who took on challenging roles in both made-for-TV movies and on the silver screen. From pinup model to Emmy Award–nominated performer, she navigated the entertainment industry with grace and tenacity, leaving an indelible mark on pop culture.

The Beginnings of an Icon

Born on February 2, 1947, in Corpus Christi, Texas, Farrah Leni Fawcett was the younger of two daughters in the Fawcett household. As she grew up, the radiant beauty exhibited a zest for life and a penchant for performance. Her formative years were marked by active participation in local theatrical productions. She also displayed an innate knack for drawing, a talent that would stay with her throughout her life.

After graduating from W.B. Ray High School in 1965, Fawcett pursued a degree in microbiology at the University of Texas at Austin. However, the magnetic pull of the arts proved too strong to resist. Switching her major to art, she soon found herself in the orbit of Hollywood when a publicist noticed her photo at a campus beauty contest.

It wasn't long before she moved to Los Angeles to chase the shimmering dream of acting. Starting with commercials and small television roles, Farrah's vivacious charm and unmistakable golden locks made her hard to ignore. She made her way in Hollywood playing bit roles in many different television programs, such as *The Flying Nun* and *The Partridge Family*. Her big break came in 1976 when she landed the role of Jill Munroe in the would-be hit television show *Charlie's Angels*. Accompanying her newfound television fame was an [iconic poster of her in a red swimsuit](#), 12 million of which were sold, firmly establishing her status as a 1970s pop culture icon.



Discussion Starter

- Reflecting on your own life, have you ever felt a strong pull toward a different path than the one you initially chose? How did you handle that feeling?
- Did you ever watch *Charlie's Angels*? What do you recall about it?
- Do you enjoy watching shows with a lot of detective work? Why or why not?

Beyond the Angels

Fawcett chose to leave *Charlie's Angels* after just one season. While her stint on the show was relatively short-lived, it provided a platform that catapulted her to international stardom. Despite the show's success and her undeniable role in its appeal, Fawcett desired more challenging roles that would enable her to showcase her true range as an actress.

The decision to leave the show was met with mixed reactions. Many saw it as a gamble, but Fawcett was resolute in her pursuit of a diversified acting portfolio. Her efforts bore fruit in 1984 when she starred in the off-Broadway stage play *Extremities*. Her role as an abuse survivor seeking vengeance was a stark departure from her well-known *Charlie's Angels* persona. Her performances in both the stage play and a 1986 made-for-TV movie earned critical acclaim and solidified her place as a versatile actress.

Television movies like *The Burning Bed* and *Nazi Hunter: The Beate Klarsfeld Story* further showcased her dramatic range, with complex and challenging roles. In *The Burning Bed*, Farrah played a woman trapped in an abusive marriage, a performance that not only garnered her an Emmy nomination but also spotlighted the harrowing issue of domestic violence.

Another pivotal moment in Fawcett's career was her role in the science-fiction film *Saturn 3*, in which she stars alongside Kirk Douglas and Harvey Keitel. While the film wasn't a massive hit, it showcased her potential in the realm of feature films.

Discussion Starters

- Can you think of a time when you or someone you know stepped out of their comfort zone to pursue a passion or a deeper purpose? What challenges did they face, and how did they overcome them?
- Often in the media, celebrities are typecast into certain roles or images. Have you ever felt typecast in your own life, either professionally or personally? How did you break out of that mold or redefine yourself?

Personal Relationships and Family

Amidst the rising tide of her career, Fawcett also navigated personal waters. She began dating actor Lee Majors in 1969, and they married in 1973 when both were still relatively unknown actors. With Majors' titular role in *The Six Million Dollar Man* in 1974 and Fawcett's breakthrough role on *Charlie's Angels* two years later, the couple often found themselves [in the media spotlight](#), and they became one of Hollywood's golden couples. However, the pressures of fame and long work hours led to their separation in 1979 and eventual divorce in 1982.

Soon after her separation from Majors, Fawcett began dating *Love Story* actor Ryan O'Neal. They never married, but they were involved in a dramatic and reportedly abusive partnership for most of the remainder of Fawcett's life. Together, the two had a son, Redmond, who was born in 1985. Redmond battled drug addiction from an early age and has spent much of his life in and out of prison for a number of felonies. He blames his struggles on a tumultuous and psychologically traumatic upbringing.

There are reports that Fawcett maintained a secret relationship with her college sweetheart, Texas football star Greg Lott, for the last 10 years of her life. Lott claimed that theirs was a loving relationship and insisted her relationship with O'Neal was for publicity only.



Using Her Voice for Good

Perhaps Fawcett's most challenging ordeal was her fight against cancer. In 2006, she was diagnosed with anal cancer. True to her nature, she faced the disease head-on, documenting her struggles and treatments in a televised documentary, *Farrah's Story*. The documentary, which aired in 2009, gave an intimate look into her battle, highlighting her indomitable spirit and determination. It also raised awareness about the disease and the importance of regular medical checkups.

Her battle with cancer led her to become a voice for cancer research and awareness. The Farrah Fawcett Foundation, established in 2007, provides funding for cutting-edge cancer research, patient assistance, and prevention efforts. Fawcett also used her influence to shed light on other important social issues, such as domestic abuse.

While she continued to act in films and on stage, her health progressively deteriorated. Farrah Fawcett passed away on June 25, 2009, leaving behind a legacy of excellence in acting and an inspiring story of courage in the face of adversity. Her life, both on and off the screen, serves as a testament to her talent, beauty, and resilience.

Discussion Starters

- Life often throws unexpected challenges our way. Reflect on a moment when you had to change your plans or aspirations due to unforeseen circumstances. How did it shape your perspective on life and the importance of adaptability?
- *Farrah's Story* provided a raw and intimate look into her battle with cancer. How do you feel about celebrities sharing their personal journeys in such a public manner? Do you believe it has much of an impact on public awareness and understanding?

Trivia

- *The Burning Bed* was the first television series that included a hotline for women in abusive situations nationwide.
- Fawcett received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on February 23, 1995.
- Fawcett maintained a painting hobby throughout her life and career.
- After the release of *Charlie's Angels* in 1976, there was a notable increase in the number of babies named Farrah.
- Fawcett was born into a Catholic family.
- A special Barbie doll featuring Fawcett's iconic hairstyle debuted in 1977.
- Fawcett received a special posthumous tribute at the 2009 Primetime Emmy Awards.

Notable Quotes from Farrah Fawcett

- "Marriages that last are with people who do not live in Los Angeles."
- "When you do bad things, bad things happen to you."
- "The reason the all-American boy prefers beauty to brains is that he can see better than he can think."
- "Looking a certain way is a blessing and a curse."
- "God gave women instinct and womanliness. Utilized appropriately, the combo effortlessly disorders the mind of any man I've ever met."
- "I deeply believe in one's own positive will to overcome even the most daunting challenges."

Iconic Pinups

Farrah Fawcett may be one of the most famous "pinup" models of the '70s, but she was not the first nor the last. Listed below are brief descriptions of notable models and their careers. Read the descriptions aloud and have participants try to guess the model in question.

1. This woman was one of the most iconic pinup girls of World War II. Her bathing suit photo was featured in *Life* magazine's "100 Photographs That Changed the World." One of her most popular film roles was as Loco Dempsey in *How to Marry a Millionaire* (1953).

Answer: [Betty Grable](#)

2. Anybody who knows anything about American pop culture would recognize this famous actress' photo taken on the set of one of her more popular movies, *The Seven-Year Itch*, in which the air from a subway grate is blowing up the skirt of her white dress.

Answer: [Marilyn Monroe](#)

3. Men can be pinup models, too! This man in particular has appeared on a multitude of book covers (namely romance novels). A 1993 pinup calendar featuring this man was featured in bookstores nationwide.

Answer: [Fabio Lanzoni](#)

4. This prolific English model was one of the most well-known supermodels of the '80s and '90s and was also the first Black woman to appear on the cover of *Time* magazine.

Answer: [Naomi Campbell](#)

5. This Canadian actress and model was active in the '90s. She is perhaps best-known for her leading role in the TV series *Baywatch*, a show where everyone wore red bathing suits.

Answer: [Pamela Anderson](#)

6. This woman was most famous for the provocative pictures taken of her in the '50s. Her career was relatively short, ending in 1957, whereafter she became a born-again Christian.

Answer: [Bettie Page](#)

7. This celebrity was a male sex symbol of the '50s. His brand was that of teenage rebellion, as illustrated by his role in the film *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955).

Answer: [James Dean](#)

8. Starring in over 20 films, this prolific actress was active in the '40s and '50s and was known for her signature curvy figure. Her most famous role is perhaps the film *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (1953), in which she stars alongside Marilyn Monroe.

Answer: [Jane Russell](#)

9. This actress's career spanned three decades from the early '40s to 1970. She often played the "femme fatale" role in the movies she starred in and her signature "peek-a-boo" blonde locks made her impossible to miss in the Hollywood scene.

Answer: [Veronica Lake](#)

10. Born in 1966, this supermodel-turned-actress found herself a prolific career. She appeared on the cover of *Vogue* magazine and starred in movies and series alike, such as *54* (1998) and *Cougar Town* (2009–2015). She is also the star of an [iconic Pepsi commercial](#) (1:01) that aired during the 1992 Super Bowl. If you haven't guessed yet, she has a distinctive beauty mark off to one side just above her lips.

Answer: [Cindy Crawford](#)

Additional Activities

1. Watch [Farrah's Story](#) (2:04:32), a documentary covering Fawcett's battle with cancer.
 2. Enjoy the [pilot episode of Charlie's Angels](#) (1:14:28).
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Celebrating a mystery
person born this month