

Shoeless Joe
NOVEL STUDY, created by Janet Somerville

PART ONE

Shoeless Joe Jackson Comes to Iowa

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Use point-form notes that reveal character by what each character says, what each character does, and what is said ABOUT them by others.

Ray Kinsella
Annie Kinsella
Joe Jackson

USE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

SIMILE:

“wind as soft as a day-old chick” (3)

“dimensions...jumped over and around me like fleas” (4)

“cost figures...whirled around my head like moths...” (4)

“the left field grass was like green angora, soft as a baby’s cheek” (9)

PERSONIFICATION:

“Moonlight butters the whole Iowa night.” (13)

“...the stars have moved in close enough to eavesdrop” (19)

Part Two

They Tore Down the Polo Grounds in 1984

Ray's 2nd VOICE and VISION

- “Ease his pain” (Salinger’s pain)
- VISION:
 - Ray seated with Salinger at Fenway Park
 - Watching a game
 - Eating hotdogs, drinking pop, filling in scorecards

-setting : PRESENT time determined: circa 1980 with reference to the 1st test-tube baby (Louise Brown)

-ongoing tension/struggle between *faith/doubt*

-Ray’s connection to Salinger:

- avid baseball fan (p.34)
- emotional connection to the game
- in 1941 story “Ray Kinsella” is a character
- twin brother “Richard Kinsella” is one of Holden’s friends in *The Catcher in the Rye*

p. 33 “Are there ever coincidences?”

OLD INTERVIEW WITH SALINGER ABOUT BASEBALL REVEALS:

- kept *Baseball Encyclopedia* prominently on his bookshelf
- Boston Red Sox fan
- Hasn’t been to a game since 1954
- Instead of being a writer...
 - “I wanted more than anything in the world to play at the Polo Grounds. But I’ve seen myself grow too old for the dream.” (p. 35)

Notable comments:

We have been trading promises like baseball cards, Shoeless Joe and I. (p. 23)

I want it all to happen now. I want that catcher to appear. I want whatever miracle I am party to, to prosper and grow... (p. 25)

He virtually never gives interviews, guards his privacy as if it were a virgin bride, even refuses to let his stories to be anthologized. (p. 33)

Salinger has used us both as characters in his fiction. If that is not a sign, an omen, a revelation, I don't know what is. (p. 37)

My journey will be like going out to hunt stars with a net on a stick. (p. 39)

pp.35-51

“My journey will be like going out to hunt stars with a net on a stick.” (39)

Ray feels finding Salinger will be difficult—that he will elude his capture

Ray's pilgrimage en route to SALINGER:

(remember his father dreamed Ray would visit all Major League ballparks during his life time; symbolically appropriate time—SPRING—rebirth/hope + beginning of Baseball Season)

- 1) CHICAGO
 - a. Wrigley Field (Cubs away)
 - b. Comiskey Park/White Sox Stadium
- 2) CLEVELAND
 - a. Indians play—no real audience—Ray finds it depressing
- 3) NEW YORK
 - a. Yankees play—glad to see Thurman Munson (who will be dead by Fall)
- 4) BOSTON
 - a. Buys 2 tickets for RED SOX game with Salinger

pp. 53-70

Ray's attempt to CONVINCING Salinger:

- Ray Kinsella (a character in a Salinger story)
- He has a gun (pretends with his hand inside his trenchcoat/has a real one in the trunk)
- Richard Kinsella was a character in *The Catcher in the Rye*
- Brought Jerry a baseball hit by Shoeless Joe with Black Betsy
- Has tickets to Red Sox game for that night

Analogy has been defined as an “illustration of an idea by means of a more familiar idea that is similar or parallel to it in some significant features, and thus said to be analogous to it.”

The **logic of analogy** goes like this:

Baseball is a ritual and writing is a ritual. Therefore, baseball is similar to writing.

Turn to pp. 84-85 to the passage beginning “*This one idea has run like coloured thread through all my thoughts for all these months*” and ending with “*...steady as a grandfather dozing in a wicker chair on a verandah.*”

How does Ray hope to convince Salinger with his extended analogy?

Write a paragraph- long argument that develops the following analogy:

Schools are organized like prisons.

RAY’S OBSESSION WITH SALINGER

What is your opinion of Ray’s obsession with J.D. Salinger?

Salinger says, “writers are magicians. They write down words and if they’re good, you believe that what they write is real, just as you believe a good magician has pulled the coin out of your ear.” (82) Do you agree/disagree? Explain your response.

Do you agree with Salinger when he says, “the words on the page have no connection to the person who wrote them. Writers live other peoples’ lives for them.” (82)

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PARTS ONE/TWO TEST

Shoeless Joe Jackson Comes to Iowa/ They Tore Down the Polo Grounds in 1964

INSTRUCTIONS:

* **Answer Part A on the sheet.**

* **Answer Parts B and C on a separate piece of lined paper.**

A) Factual Recall (5 marks)

- 1) Shoeless Joe's glove was once called the place where _____ go to die.
- 2) Jackson's reply to a kid who implored "Say it isn't so, Joe" was _____.
- 3) In Ray's vision of watching a game with J.D. Salinger, in what baseball stadium are they? _____
- 4) In what Chicago baseball stadium does Ray watch a game? _____
- 5) What gift does Ray offer Salinger when he kidnaps him? _____

B) Interpreting Quotations (10 marks)

Consider how FIVE of the following quotations contribute to plot development, character development, mood and theme. (Each response is worth 2 marks. Answers MUST BE IN SENTENCE FORM.)

- 1) *“Why don’t you invite Shoeless Jack in for coffee?” I feel the greatest tenderness toward her then, something akin to the love I felt the first time I held my daughter in my arms.*
- 2) *Was it really a voice I heard? Or was it perhaps something inside me making a statement that I did not hear with my ears but with my heart? Why should I want to follow this command? But as I ask, I already know the answer.*
- 3) *“A friend of mine used to tell about the war, how him and a buddy was running across a field when a piece of shrapnel took his friend’s head off, and how the friend ran, headless, for several strides before he fell. I’m told that old men wake in the night and scratch itchy legs that have been dust for fifty years.”*
- 4) *“ When I was a kid, I wanted more than anything else in the world to play at the Polo Grounds. But I’ve seen myself grow too old for that dream— seen the Giants move across a continent to San Francisco, and, finally, they tore down the polo grounds in 1964.”*
- 5) *They know that I am a baseball freak and despair that I have corrupted their daughter and am in the process of converting their granddaughter. They wish I had a more serious vice.*
- 6) *“Your writing has drawn me nearly fifteen hundred miles, allowed me to make a fool of myself, actually made me a criminal. That’s what I call having influence.”*
- 7) *“I envy you your craziness,” he says quietly. “It has been years, far too many years, since I did something absolutely crazy.”*

C) Creative Writing (10 marks)

Pretend you are Ray Kinsella and write a letter home to Annie in which you provide details about what has happened since you left Iowa on your quest to kidnap J.D. Salinger. Be sure to provide specific plot detail as well as your feelings. It should end with your intention to track down “Moonlight” Graham.

Use proper letter format including a date and addresses.

Part Three

***The Life and Times of Moonlight Graham* (pp. 105-128)**

(p.109) Salinger's opinion of CENSORSHIP

"I stopped caring years ago....Any publicity is good publicity"

(pp.109-110) " In these days when anything goes in literature, movies, and even TV, to think that there are some places so isolated, so backward, so ill-informed as to what's going on in the world that they can still get all hot and bothered about something as innocent as *Catcher*. I mean, if there was ever a crusader against sin, it was Holden Caulfield."

LIST REASONS WHY BOOKS MAY BE BANNED:

-
-
-
-
-

What do the newspaper articles add about "Moonlight" Graham's life?

How can you tell that Jerry is becoming more relaxed about his fame?

***The Life and Times of Moonlight Graham* (pp. 101-153)**

Make a list of SIMILES Ray uses in this section of the novel.

- I am as tense and anxious as if I were waiting for a 3-2 pitch.
-
-

-
-
-
-

Preparing for Posterity

Ray decides that “He was a fan of the game” would be an acceptable epitaph for himself. What epitaph would you accept for yourself?

The Life and Times of Moonlight Graham (pp. 128-153)

HEADLINE: JD SALINGER MISSING

- sense of humour “My son will say he’s had a call from me and that I’m in a monastery in Peru eating goat cheese and contemplating the meaning of life.” (132)

- comment about Doc Graham’s ALTRUISM
 - “It’s a sad time when the world won’t listen to stories about good men.” (133)
- Ray can’t sleep so he wanders through the streets of Chisholm alone—he drops into 1955 and meets Doc Graham (in his 75th year)
 - “I had this feeling in there when I woke up—a pulling, like there was a magnet somewhere drawing me slowly toward it. Are you a magnet, Ray Kinsella?” (139)
 - Graham’s advice:
 - “Hardly anybody recognizes the most significant moments of their life at the time they happen.” (146)
 - “If I’d only been a doctor for five minutes, now that would have been a tragedy. You have to keep things in perspective. I mean, I love the game, but it’s only that, a game.” (149)
- Doc’s WISH: to hold a bat in a major league game
- Jerry and Ray pick up a young ARCHIE GRAHAM and take him with them to Ray’s farm in Iowa

PARTS THREE/FOUR MINI-TEST

The Life and Times of Moonlight Graham/ The Oldest Living Chicago Cub (to p. 202)

A) What's in a Name? (KNOWLEDGE: 5 marks)

Put the NAME of a CHARACTER in each of the following blanks.

- 1) "The young _____ is like a doll Jerry and I have conjured up to satisfy our desire that fantasy turn into truth."
- 2) "I remember the story of how _____, after he had been paid off, tried to return the money, and, failing that, tried to take it to White Sox owner Charles Comiskey."
- 3) The first words _____ said to Annie were, "I'm not Ray. I have a scar."
- 4) ...I am thinking of the story of Marilyn Monroe returning from a trip to entertain the troops in Korea—returning to an unhappy Joe _____, the Yankee Clipper.
- 5) Kid _____, Edward Sebastian—BL TL 6'2" 195 lbs
B. Nov. 12, 1887

B) Interpreting Similes (APPLICATION 10 marks)

Explain why each of the following similes is appropriate, considering to whom or what they refer.

- 1) *We huddle over the road map like spies.*
- 2) *A ballpark at night is more like a church than a church.*

- 3) *We grin at each other like kids clutching shiny quarters—his inscribed “Fulfill the dream,” mine engraved, “Go the distance.”*

- 4) *There is a fringe of neatly trimmed white hair, like a halo...he holds an umbrella, as gently as he might a fencing foil.*

- 5) *You feel for the land like it was your child. When that happens to you, you can't be bought.*

NOTES (pp. 239-end)

Mark and Bluestein take control of the farm (give Ray 72 hours to bring the mortgage payments up to date) and plan to “knock down that eyesore of a fence and that pile of rubble you call a bleacher” (241)

Ray gets the GUN from his trunk and fires warning shots: “I’ll shoot again. Get off my property!” (243)

Karen’s accident

- unconscious and fighting for breath
- Mark offers his car “all arrogance and pomposity gone from his voice” (245)
- Moonlight Graham is transformed to the elderly Doc Graham as he leaves the field of dreams
 - “lucky I happened to be on the scene, Ray Kinsella. That little girl wouldn’t have lasted very much longer” (249)
 - “He has violated some cosmic rule that I vaguely know exists, and do not even attempt to understand” (249)
- NB: the near LOSS has affected them all—they are kinder having had mortality waved in their faces

Richard is desperate to BELIEVE.

- “What if you had a chance to meet Dad?”
- “I’d go to him. I don’t know what I’d tell him but I’d become his friend.” (250)

SALINGER'S DREAM

- fraternity: you find it almost by instinct
- people who come will be drawn
- “you’ll say it’s only 20 dollars per person. And they’ll pass over the money without even looking at it—for it is money they have and peace they lack.” (252)
- ALLUSION to Bobby Kennedy: “I dream of things that never were” (253)

Richard/Ray approach Johnny Kinsella (their Dad)

“ I admire the way you catch a game of baseball” (254)—Ray uses Eddie’s advice.

***NB ...we’ll hardly realize that we’re talking of love, and family, and life, and beauty and friendship and sharing... (255)*

Part Five: The Rapture of J.D. Salinger

rap·ture n

1. a euphoric transcendent state in which somebody is overwhelmed by happiness or delight and unaware of anything else
2. a mystical experience of being transported into the spiritual realm, sometimes applied to the second coming of Jesus Christ when true believers are expected to rise up to join him in heaven

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Why do you think the ballplayers invite Jerry instead of Ray?

What is Jerry’s confession to Ray?

“Back then I couldn’t let anybody get that close to me...I thought of telling you, but I was saving it for the right moment.” (262)

Jerry's PERSONAL DREAM

- might get to play?
- Might like Eddie get to sit in the stands and watch a 20-year-old kid with a smooth face and black, pompadoured hair try out with the 1938 Giants

Examine the closing paragraph of the novel:

On the porch, we turn to look at the silent, satiny green of the field. I press the switch, and, like a candle going out, the scar of lights disappears. Above the farm, a moon bright as butter silvers the night as Annie holds the door open for me. (265)

Shoeless Joe

THE WHOLE NOVEL

The messages Ray and Jerry “hear” are laden with meaning for a variety of characters.

- 1) *If you build it he will come.*
 - *Shoeless Joe (Ray's Dad's hero)*
 - *John Kinsella—enables Ray to see his father in a new and respectful way*
- 2) *Ease his pain*
 - *Ray thinks it's about: a) Salinger (They Tore Down the Polo grounds interview) b) about his father*
 - *It's Ray's pain (unresolved issues with his father)*
- 3) *Go the distance*
 - *Takes them to Chisholm to find Moonlight/Doc Graham—needed to save Karin's life*
 - *Finish the dream (Bring Salinger, Moonlight, Eddie together)*
- 4) *Fulfil the dream*
 - *Salinger's baseball fantasy: He has NOT “grown too old for the dream”*

CULMINATING CREATIVE ASSIGNMENT

Select ONE of the following topics.

- Design a set of 5 baseball cards highlighting the characters in the novel.
- Write a 750-word epilogue to the novel explaining what happens to the farm, to Ray and his family, and to Jerry.
- Write a 500-word magazine article detailing the story of the magic ballpark's creation. Include an interview with Ray.

- Write a 500-word persuasive speech that Mark would deliver to convince Ray to sell the farm.

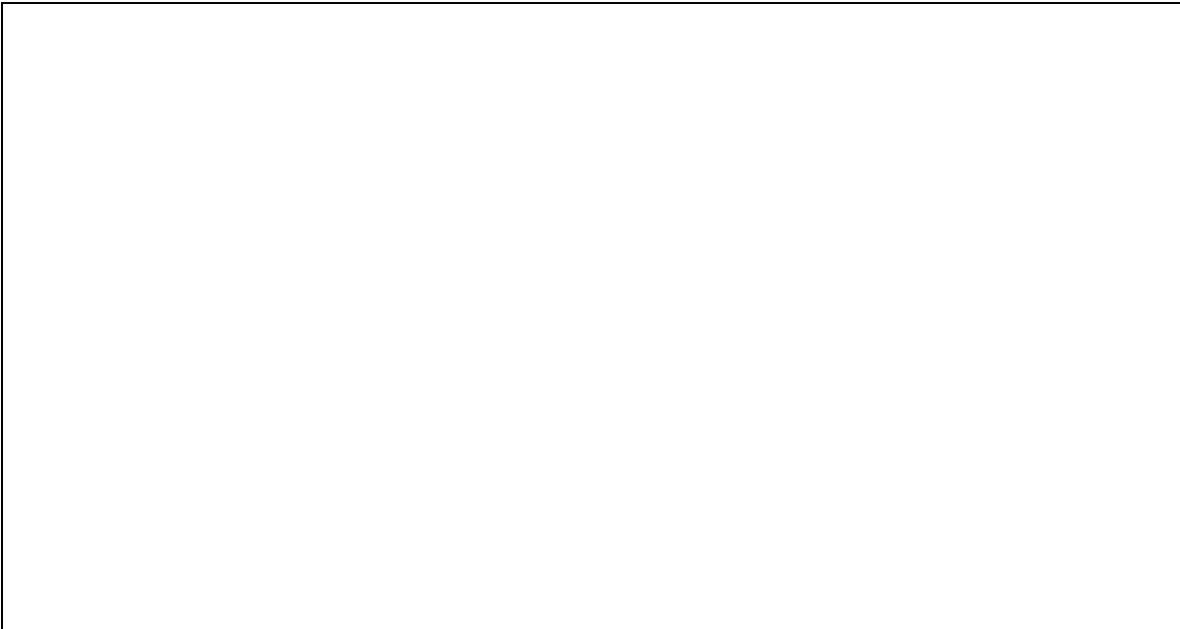
RUBRIC

Item	Value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Mark
Content (A)	25	Limited connection to the novel, limited diction, limited support, not always relevant, below expectations (13-15)	Some connection to the novel, limited diction, some relevant detail, approaches expectations (16-18)	Connected to the novel, appropriate diction, significant relevant support, meets expectations (19-21)	Excellent connection to the novel, appropriate diction true to character, superb relevant support, exceeds expectations (22-25)	
Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation (C)	5	more than ten errors (2)	six to ten errors (3)	one to five errors (4)	no errors (5)	
Style (C)	10	Communicates with limited clarity, sloppy (4)	Communicates with some clarity, some care evident (6)	Communicates with considerable clarity; uses varied sentence structure, neatly done (8)	Communicates with a high degree of clarity; uses varied sentence structure (10)	

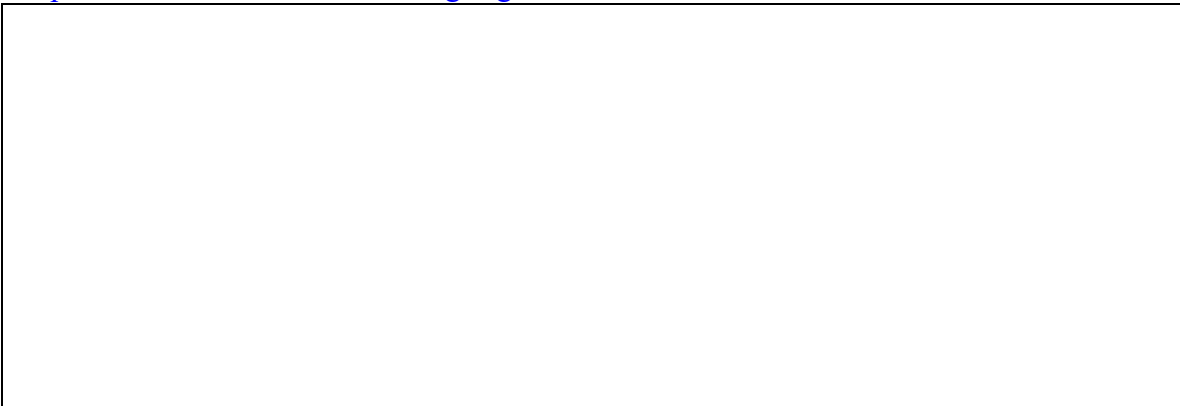
/40 marks

Go to each of the following websites and take careful notes about aspects about the film *Field of Dreams* and the novel *Shoeless Joe* that interest you.

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Olympus/2060/kent.shoeless.html>



<http://www.cardmall.com/moonlight-graham/>



<http://www.fieldofdreamsmoviesite.com/>



