George Stoyonovich

**Material from Our Notebook – Typed by Yarden Cohen**

1. He quit school at the age of 16 on an impulse because he ran out of patience.
2. He thought about completing his education but had many excuses not to do it.

* The kids would be too young.
* The teachers told him what to do.
* The teachers didn't respect him.

1. He doesn't have a job because

* No diploma.
* It's a hard time for jobs.

1. George can't ask a girl out on a date because he doesn't work and he doesn't have any money.
2. George likes to listen to the ball games on the radio, to read old copies of the World Almanac, old magazines and old newspapers. Most of the time he just sat in his room.

His family

1. His mother died.
2. His sister Sophie takes care of the house 23.
3. The father is poor – works in a fish market.
4. The family lives in a railroad flat above a butcher store. It's a poor neighborhood.
5. George's family was indifferent when George quit school.

The reading theme

Each character has different reading habits that tell us about it.

1. George – magazines, newspaper, News Mirror, World Almanac.
2. Sophie- whatever she finds, sometimes good books.

George's excuses:

1. Leaving school
2. Being unemployed
3. Not reading

George's dream (p.13 lines 23-32)

George escapes to the park in order to be alone and avoid the annoying questions from people around him. He walks for blocks to a private park and dreams of a better life:

1. "A private house with a porch" like in the suburbs - successful people live in such houses.
2. "On a street with trees" as opposed to his stony neighborhood.
3. "Some dough"- money
4. "A good job"
5. "A girl- not to be lonely"- as opposed to his current situation.
6. He wanted people to like him and respect him.

Part 2- page 16

Mr. Cattanzara

Description

1. Mr. Cattanzara is George's neighbor.
2. He is a stocky bald- headed man
3. He works in a change booth- sells subway tickets.
4. He lives in a poor neighborhood and has a fat, sick, boring wife.
5. He gets drunk sometimes.

Mr. Cattanzara's reading habits

He reads "The New York Times" from first page to last. He also reads all the newspapers. This shows us that he is very intelligent and has a thirst for knowledge.

Mr. Cattanzara's relationship with George

1. He cares about him and asks tough questions.
2. George likes him and remembers how Mr. Cattanzara would give him nickels to buy lemon ice as a child.
3. He acts as a father figure to him.
4. He spreads a rumor that George is going to read 100 books.
5. The reason he does it is to give George a taste of the respect he wants so much that comes from education.

The end of the story

1. "One evening in the fall"- the fall in the season when the schoolyear begins. All summer George didn't do anything to advance his education and in the fall he finally starts.

The meaning of the title

**Two levels**

1. Literal level: George doesn't do any actual reading in the summer so the title is ironic.
2. Symbolic level: George does some meaningful reading in the book of his life. He sees his past, present and future.

Past- he quit school and has done nothing since.

Present- all summer he does nothing to improve his life.

Future- Mr. Cattanzara represents his future self because he too had quit school and therefore had a miserable life Mr. Cattanzara sees in George his past self so he tells him not to respect his mistake. "Don’t do what I did".

Mr. Cattanzara's present Mr. Cattanzara's future

George's present George= Mr. Cattanzara's past

* George ran to the library. This shows he really wanted to go there.
* "There were books all over the place". This shows he hasn't been there in years. It's a childish response.
* "… he was struggling to control an inward trembling"

When you're going to do something

Intention and purpose to read

"He **sat down** at a table **to read**"

"He easily counted off a hundred"

He has already decided.

Fear

Excitement

It's hard for him

He wants it

**The formula for writing a Bridging answer**

1. Highlight key words in the Bridging question.
2. How does the quote or context help you understand the story?
3. Write examples from the story that explain what you said in part II
4. Clearly state connection to the text\*. This is done by using words/phrases from the question.

\*text= bridging text

Good Luck!