**A SUMMER'S READING (Summary)**

**George (almost 20):**

* was a neighborhood boy
* quit high school when he was 16 *on an impulse* he felt ashamed
* didn't have a job
* thought of going to a summer school (***but*** kids would be too young there)
* considered registering to a night school (***but*** felt that the teachers didn't respect him)

He stayed off the street and in his room.

**Family:**

* father was poor, weak. Worked in a fish market.
* Mother died.
* Sophie, his sister, older than George. Worked in a coffee shop.

She kept the money for herself. She took care of the house.

**In his room George:**

* Cleaned the house, mopped the floors (when he is bored)
* Sat in his room
* Listened to ball games on the radio in the afternoon
* Read magazines that Sophie brought home (mostly picture magazines)

**First lie to Sophie:**

She asked him what he was doing in his room and his answer was that he was reading (actually he didn't).

**In the evening:**

* George left the house and wandered in the neighborhood. Then he left the neighborhood to the little park with benches and trees and iron railing.

It gave him a feeling of privacy.

* He thought about a better life for himself:
* a job
* a girl to go out with
* money
* a house with a porch on a street with trees
* respect

**The neighborhood:**

* Shopkeepers sat outside because it was very hot.
* Thick, broken sidewalk

**PART II**

**Mr.Cattanzara:**

* drank once in a while
* a stocky
* bald headed man
* worked in a change booth on the IRT station
* lived next block after George
* read the New York Times from the first page to the last = He was different from the people in the neighborhood.

When he was drunk, it was a quiet drunk. He walked stiffly up the street and his eyes were wet. (cried, felt sorry about his life) Mr.Cattanzara escaped the reality by drinking.

Mr. Cattanzara was different:

1. He asked different questions = was interested in George's life.
2. He gave him money to buy lemon ice.
3. He seemed to know what went on in all the newspapers.

**First meeting: Mr.Cattanzara – George**

Mr.Cattanzara asked George what he was doing during the summer. George felt embarrassed and told Mr.Cattanzara that he was waiting for a job. He also said that he was reading in order to pick up his education. (George was passive – he didn't do anything in order to get a job but he felt uncomfortable telling Mr.Cattanzara that he was not working.)

George lied to Mr.Cattanzara and told him that he got a list of 100 books from the library to read during the summer. He wanted Mr.Cattanzara to respect him.

Mr.Cattanzara, the change maker (=a clue), nodded and told George that he would like "*to shoot the breeze about them".*

1. Change maker = It is Mr.Cattanzara's job to give change.
2. The writer wants us to know that Mr.Cattanzara knew that George was lying because he nodded his head and told George that it was a big load for one summer. Mr.Cattanzara decided to use George's lie and to help him change.

**After the meeting:**

George did everything like he used to but one day people started treating him differently.

1. The shoemaker told George that he was a good boy,
2. The shoemaker told other people in the neighborhood about George's reading.
3. A couple of people smiled kindly at him.

George felt a little better and liked it more. He blamed the neighborhood for the way he felt.

1. His father and sister learned about his reading. His sister was proud of him.

**During the summer:**

Change George felt in a good mood.

* cleaned the house
* enjoyed more the ball games
* got money from his sister
* bought a paperback book
* skipped the park
* wandered in the neighborhood
* He tried to avoid Mr.Cattanzara and the change maker didn't say anything about the books.
* George was scared to talk to Mr.Cattanzara because he didn't know what to tell him.
* to stay away from Mr.Cattanzara until he read some books.
* For a few weeks, he had talked only once with Mr.Cattanzara. Mr.Cattanzara didn't say anything about the books and asked no questions. George felt uncomfortable.
* One night, George forgot himself and approached Mr.Cattanzara's house. Mr.Cattanzara was reading the newspaper and George was scared of then idea of talking to him. George crossed the street. (to stay away from Mt.Cattanzara)
* George tried to read books but he lost interest, he also stopped reading Sophie's magazines.
* (***Another lie to Sophie***):Sophie asked him about it and George answered that he had no time to read them because of his other reading.

**Second meeting: Mr.Cattanzara – George**

Mr.Cattanzara was coming down the street toward him. George couldn't run away. George knew that Mr.Cattanzara was drunk from his walk.

Mr.Cattanzara passed him without a word but then he heard his name called. Mr.Cattanzara took a nickel ang told George to go and buy himself a lemon ice. George said that he was a big guy now but Mr.Cattanzara said he wasn't, and asked George about the books. Mr.Cattanzara asked George to name him one book the he had read. Then Mr.Cattanzara went away but George could hear him say: "Don't do what I did."

**After the meeting:**

George was afraid to leave his room. Sophie argued with him and understood that he wasn't reading. She stopped giving him money.

* He stayed in his room for almost a week, except to sneak into the kitchen.
* One night, unable to stand the heat, he burst into the street. He discovered the people were still friendly to him. He felt his confidence come back to him.
* When asked if it was true that he had finished reading so many books, George admitted he had. The man said it was wonderful. George felt relieved.
* He met (accidentally) Mr.Cattanzara who didn't ask him about the books.

One evening in the fall (autumn) George ran out of his house to the library. He counted off a hundred and sat down at a table to read.