**Name:**

**Period**

**Movie Guide *Cinderella Man***

1. What are your first impressions of James Braddock? Does he come across as a likeable character? Why or why not?
2. What do we learn about James Braddock’s place in society immediately before the start of the Great Depression?
3. How do you think his wife, Mae, feels about his boxing career and the boxing fans? What examples can you provide from the film to support the way she feels.
4. List at least 4 items found in the Braddock’s bedroom that symbolizes his success.
5. Describe the changes in the physical appearance of Braddock and his surroundings.
6. James Braddock gives his breakfast to his daughter Rosie. What does this tell us about him as a man and as a father?
7. As Braddock walks down the street, listen to the song being played. There is no dialogue in this scene and the meaning comes from the appearance of the street and the words of the song. How do the song’s lyrics help to explain the plight of thousands of Americans in the 1930’s?
8. The gates to the factory are locked and the unemployed men appear as if they are behind bars in a jail. How does this scene metaphorically represent the situation of all the men?
9. According to the discarded newspaper, how many people are unemployed?
10. What do the muddy footprints across the newspaper tell us about the men?
11. When James Braddock’s son is jumping on an old rusty bedspring there are no other children or toys in sight. How would you describe his attitude when he greets his father?
12. When Jay stole a salami, what did his father make him do? Do you agree with his father’s response? Why or why not?
13. “We don’t steal. No matter what happens. We don’t steal!” How does this dialogue help us to understand the moral values of James Braddock?
14. Why did Jay steal?
15. Explain the promise James Braddock made to his son.
16. James Braddock’s trainer, Joe, questions James Braddock by saying “pardon me miss”. He was being patronizing and making what statement about James Braddock? Do you think Joe would accept women in the sport of boxing? Making sexist remarks which belittle either sex is not acceptable. What type of stereotyping was evident in Joe’s comment to James Braddock?
17. The spectators of the boxing match are mainly which gender? Why do you think this is?
18. Mr Johnson and James Braddock were both focused on the money coming in from the boxing match. They had different reasons. Which of the two men had a more honourable point of view? Explain.
19. James Braddock’s drive to work, so that his family can survive, is hampered by his broken hand being in plaster. How does he attempt to cover up the plaster so he can still get to work on the dock?
20. James Braddock begins a friendship with Mike and they head off to the pub after work. Throughout the film we see many selfless acts from James Braddock that demonstrates he is always focused on the needs of his family. As you view the film write down other examples of this.
21. Rosie says “Momma why can’t I go to school? Is it because I am a girl?” Females are often portrayed as a weaker or less able than males. As you view the film write down some examples of how females are portrayed in this manner. Also write down examples of times when the female characters demonstrate strength.
22. What do you think James Braddock is feeling as times continue to get harder for his family?
23. While the family is breaking off pieces of wood from a sign, we see in the background a husband leaving his wife. His wife says “where are you going?” Her question goes unanswered. What do you think his answer might be?
24. James Braddock said, “We do not steal.” Is taking the wood from the sign stealing? Explain your point of view.
25. Mae broke up the family and separated the children without first speaking to her husband. Do you think what she did was right?
26. “Where are you going” is repeated by Mae when James Braddock leaves the house. He does not answer. Why do you think this question is so difficult to answer? Where did he go and why?
27. Do you think James Braddock should be proud or ashamed of his actions to get his children back again? Explain your choice.
28. We see more than one argument between families. What makes the Braddock family different?
29. James Braddock teaches Rosie some boxing moves. Is this outside what is expected of the two gender roles? Explain.
30. How much time did James Braddock have to prepare for his fight with Corn Griffin?
31. What reaction did he receive from the spectators on his return to the ring? How was this reaction different to his last fight?
32. It was the most difficult of times. Why do you think the spectators might want to see someone like them ‘fight back’ and win?
33. Max Baer is portrayed as having a different boxing attitude. Describe his attitude.
34. Mae visits Joe’s apartment. What does she learn from her visit?
35. Joe’s wife tells Mae “they feel like they are failing us when really it’s just the world that’s failing.” What qualities do both women possess that prevents their husbands from feeling like failures? Provide examples from the film.
36. What gender is predominant in the spectator’s area?
37. “A fairytale comeback” In your own words explain why this phrase was used to describe James Braddock’s return to the boxing ring.
38. During the fight, what images do we become privy to that are running through James Braddock’s mind as fights? Who is he fighting for? What was James Braddock risking in order to provide for his family?
39. After winning the title, James Braddock returns to the welfare agency. Why?
40. Describe the Hooverville, focusing on who lives there, their living conditions and why they live there.
41. There is a sense of desolation on the faces of the mourners when Mike’s coffin is placed in the grave. The gravesite is a symbol for the masses. What does it represent?
42. “I know what I am fighting for… MILK” who made this statement? How this quote could be considered the motivation for “Cinderella Man”?
43. Do you think boxing is a dangerous occupation or sport? List some of the other examples James Braddock provides that are dangerous. Do you think his comparisons are justified?
44. How does *Cinderella Man* subvert the gender stereotyping of males being the stronger gender and females the weaker?
45. Gender divides were clearly evident throughout the film, men were at the boxing, women were at home with their families. Do we still have such clear gender divisions today?
46. How did James Braddock’s character shape his destiny?
47. How well do the visual and sound elements combine to represent life in America during the Great Depression years? What is you favourite scene and why?
48. How is James Braddock a positive male role model? In what ways may he be considered a type of Cinderella? In what ways can he be considered a hero?
49. Describe how the film made you feel.
50. Did you like the film? Why or why not?
51. Do you agree with the following statement: “Cinderella Man” is just another film promoting violence. Films like this should be banned as they only promote violence in the community.
52. Films such as *Cinderella Man* not only entertain but they also educate, helping us to explore life and its meaning through narratives and characters.’ Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
53. Max Baer’s family was not happy with the way in which he was portrayed in the film. They have stated that he always remained upset by the death of his opponent in the boxing ring, and that he financially supported his widow for years to come by giving the family proceeds from his matches. He was considered, by many, to be less brutal than he was portrayed in the film. Do you think it was important to the narrative to portray Baer in such a negative manner? Explain you feelings.