

A Summer's Reading / Bernard Malamud

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ט.ל.ח

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הקדמה

מהו שאלון ספרות אנגלית?

השאלון בספרות אנגלית כולל שאלות הבנה וניתוח על שירים, סיפורים, רומן או מחזה. בשאלון זה אתם נבחנים לא רק על הבנת היצירה אלא גם על יכולות הכתיבה והניתוח שלכם. יש שני סוגי שאלות בבחינת הספרות באנגלית:

LOTS – lower order thinking skills

אלו הן שאלות של רמת ידע והבנה בסיסית של היצירה. כלומר, רוצים לבדוק אם הבנתם את הרקע ליצירה ומה קורה בה. בבגרות לפעמים יש גם שאלות אמריקאיות ולא רק שאלות פתוחות.

HOTS – higher order thinking skills.

שאלות אלו הן שאלות קשות יותר ומתוחכמות יותר. בעזרת מיומנויות החשיבה שתלמדו, אתם אמורים לפענח את היצירה, להסיק מסקנות על הסיפור ולהבין את המסר שלו. (בהמשך מופיעה רשימה מפורטת שלהן). אתם צריכים להסביר ולנמק את התשובה שלכם. אם יש ציטוט בשאלות האלו, אתם חייבים להתייחס אליו. בשאלות מסוג זה מופיעים לפעמים מושגים ספרותיים (מטאפורה למשל). אתם צריכים להכיר ולהבין אותם.

שאלות אלו בד"כ שאלות פתוחות, אבל לפעמים מופיעות שאלות אלו גם כשאלות אמריקאיות. בכל מבחן יש שאלה של **Extended HOTS**. בשאלה זו אתם אלו מחליטים לבד באיזו רמת חשיבה להשתמש. כלומר, אתם צריכים לענות על השאלה ולהוכיח כי אתם מכירים את הטקסט, יודעים לנתח אותו אבל גם יודעים להשתמש נכון בכישורי החשיבה. אתם צריכים להשתמש באוצר מילים המעיד על כך שאתם מבינים את כישורי החשיבה הללו. לרוב, בשאלות אלו, יש יותר מתשובה אחת נכונה, ולכן אם תכירו יותר כישורי חשיבה, יהיה לכם יותר קל לבחור אחד מהם ולהשתמש בו בצורה נכונה.

Thinking skills

עליכם להכיר היטב את ההגדרות לכישורי החשיבה השונים עליהן אתם נשאלים. לכן הכנו עבורכם טבלה המפרטת את הכישורים הללו, על מה אתם נדרשים לענות בכל אחת כאשר אתם נשאלים עליו, ובאיזה אוצר מילים יש להשתמש בתשובה כדי להוכיח שאתם מבינים אותו.

Comparing and contrasting	<p>בשאלה זו יש להשוות בין נקודות שונות בסיפור (דמויות, מקומות, מצבים, תכונות אופי), למצוא קווי דמיון ושוני, ולהסיק את המסקנות העולות מהסיפור.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>אוצר מילים</u></p> <p><u>Comparing</u> As...as, likewise, the same, also, like, similar, the same, compared to</p> <p><u>Contrasting</u> Different than, however, but, although, on the one hand...one the other hand, still, unlike, on the contrary, even though, despite, while</p>
Explaining patterns	<p>בשאלה זו יש לזהות ולהסביר דפוסי התנהגות או תבניות בטקסט, להסביר את משמעותם ולהסיק כיצד הם תורמים להעברת המסר של הסיפור. לדוגמה: לנסות ולדמיין איך הדמות תתנהג באירוע עתידי בהתאם לדפוס ההתנהגות שלה.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>אוצר מילים</u></p> <p>Again, in the same way, similar, like, repetition, repeat, pattern</p>
Cause and effect	<p>בשאלה זו יש לתאר ולהסביר גורמים (סיבות) ותוצאות, וכיצד הם משפיעים על הסיפור. לדוגמה: להראות איך אירוע או התנהגות של דמות מובילים לתוצאות מסוימות.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>אוצר מילים</u></p> <p>Cause, as a result of, in order to, due to, lead to, because, if...than, consequence</p>

<p>Problem solving</p>	<p>בשאלה זו יש לזהות בעיה או דילמה. בנוסף, יש למצוא את הפתרון לבעיה בטקסט או שאתם נדרשים להציע פתרון משלכם, שתואם את הטקסט מבחינת התוכן וההיגיון. <u>אוצר מילים</u></p> <p>Problem, dilemma, trouble, difficult situation, difficulty Explain, find out, resolve, overcome, deal with the problem, solve</p>
<p>Uncovering motives</p>	<p>בשאלה זו יש לזהות מניעים המסבירים את התנהגות הדמות, ולהביא ראיות לטענתכם מתוך הטקסט. כלומר, צריך להסביר את הסיבות מדוע מתרחשים דברים. למשל: שינויים בהתנהגות של דמות. <u>אוצר מילים</u></p> <p>Guess, imagine, possibility, make up, create, option</p>
<p>Inferring</p>	<p>זהו סוג שאלת ה HOTS הנפוצה ביותר. בסוג זה יש לקרוא בין השורות. כלומר, יש להסיק מסקנות על דמות מסוימת, צורת התנהגות, וכי ויש להביא ראיות מהיצירה המוכיחות את המסקנה שלנו. <u>אוצר מילים</u></p> <p>Think, probably, understand, conclude, believe, assume, infer, suppose, read between the lines.</p>
<p>Distinguishing different perspectives</p>	<p>בשאלה זו יש לזהות את נקודות המבט השונות של הדמויות בטקסט, להשוות בין נקודות מבט של שתי דמויות או בין קוראי הטקסט. יש להסביר כיצד הבנת נקודות המבט השונות תורמות להבנת הטקסט והמסר שלו. <u>אוצר מילים</u></p> <p>Point of view, looking from the side, perspective, feel, regard, on the one hand... on the other hand, differences.</p>

Bridging text and context

שאלה זו כוללת קטע או ציטוט, מהיצירה או מהביוגרפיה של המחבר. אתם צריכים לקשר אותו ליצירה ולהסביר כיצד המידע הזה תורם להבנת היצירה. כדי לבסס את תשובתכם, אתם צריכים להביא דוגמאות והוכחות מהיצירה עצמה. **לא צריך לסכם את כל היצירה** אלא להתייחס רק לחלק שקשור לשאלה.

בשאלה זו אתם צריכים לכתוב 80-100 מילים. תכננו את התשובה שלכם לפני שאתם מתחילים לכתוב!

אוצר מילים:

- **The quote reflects the message of the story / poem / novel / play**
- **The same idea appears in story / poem / novel / play**
- **The quote is referring to...**
- **In the story / poem / novel / play, expressed the same ideas / feelings as in the quote.**
- The quote/ information/ description **helps to understand the story / poem / novel / play because it clears the reason/purpose...**
- **The ideas in the quote also appears in the story / poem / novel / play.**

מילות קישור – Connectors

בשאלון F אתם נבחנים, בין היתר, על כתיבה נכונה. ה-connectors, מילות הקישור, הן חלק חשוב מהכתיבה וחשוב לדעת איך לכתוב אותן ואיך להשתמש בהן.
רשימה של מילות קישור:

מילות קישור של הוספה:

1. and – ו
2. in addition (to) – בנוסף ל
3. furthermore – יתר על כן (בנוסף)
4. moreover – יתר על כן (בנוסף)
5. besides – בנוסף לכך
6. also – גם
7. too – גם (בסוף משפט)
8. another – עוד, נוסף, אחר
9. as well as – גם, כמו כן

מילות קישור של רצף:

1. first – ראשון
2. at first – בתחילה, לראשונה
3. in the beginning – בהתחלה
4. next – הבא
5. then – אז, לאחר מכן
6. later – אחר-כך, מאוחר יותר
7. after that, (afterwards) – אחרי זה
8. at last – לבסוף
9. finally, lastly – לבסוף
10. in the end – בסוף

מילות קישור לתאר סיבתיות

1. because – בגלל ש
2. because of – בגלל ה
3. since – מכיוון ש, (מאז)

מילות קישור של ניגוד:

1. but – אבל
2. however – (אבל)
3. nevertheless – בכל זאת
4. although – אף על פי ש, למרות ש
5. even though – למרות ש
6. though – למרות ש
7. whereas – בעוד ש
8. while – בשעה ש
9. in spite of – על אף ה, למרות ה
10. despite – למרות ה
11. yet – אך, עם זאת (פירוש נוסף: עדיין)

מילות קישור המתארות רשימה / רצף:

1. to begin / start with – להתחלה
2. first of all – קודם כל
3. firstly – ראשית
4. secondly – שנית
5. thirdly – שלישית

מילות קישור של תוצאה

1. so – כך, לכן
2. therefore – לכן, לפיכך
3. thus – כך

4. due to – בגלל
5. for this reason – מסיבה זו

מילות קישור המביעות מטרה

1. in order to – בכדי ל

מילות קישור המראות סיכום

1. in conclusion – לסיכום
2. to conclude – לסכם
3. to sum up – לסכם
4. in short – בקיצור
5. finally – לבסוף

מילות קישור של דעה אישית:

1. In my opinion – לפי דעתי
2. I believe that – אני מאמין ש
3. I think / feel – מרגיש, אני חושב,
4. In my view – לפי נקודת המבט שלי

4. as a result – כתוצאה מכך

מילות קישור להראות דעות מנוגדות

1. on the one hand – מצד אחד
2. on the other hand – מצד שני
3. in contrast – בניגוד לכך

מילות קישור המביעות דוגמא

1. for example – לדוגמא
2. for instance – לדוגמא
3. such as – למשל
4. like – כמו
5. especially – במיוחד

שיטת הניקוד בבחינה

אתם מקבלים נקודות גם על התוכן וגם על שפה ודקדוק.
80 נקודות – תוכן, דיוק, רלוונטיות של התשובה לשאלה, טיעונים תומכים, ראיות נכונות מהטקסט ורהיטות.
20 נקודות – דקדוק, איות וסימני פיסוק. **חשוב מאוד לענות על כל שאלה בזמן (tense) שהיא נכתבה.** כלומר, אם היא בעבר אז אתם ממשיכים באותו זמן עבר.

A Summer's Reading / Bernard Malamud

About The Author

Bernard Malamud's writings were deeply rooted in social concerns. He was raised in Brooklyn, New York, and the experiences of hard-working immigrants were particularly important to him. *Linguistically* (מבחינה לשונית), Malamud depicted this world using a *mélange* (תערובת) of English and Yiddish, giving his stories a unique and powerful rhythm. The language further served as a commentary on the cultural *mosaic* (פסיפס) that was (and still is) New York. Within this often-bleak landscape, Malamud saw glimmers of hope and possibility. In doing so, he managed to create honest depictions of the Jewish immigrant experience with lyrical touches that suggested the potential the future might hold.

A Summer's Reading - Full story

<1>

George Stoyonovich was a neighborhood boy who had quit high school on an *impulse* (דחף) when he was sixteen, run out of patience, and though he was ashamed every time he went looking for a job, when people asked him if he had finished and he had to say no, he never went back to school. This summer was a hard time for jobs and he had none. Having so much time on his hands, George thought of going to summer school, but the kids in his classes would be too young. He also considered *registering* (להרשם) in a night high school, only he didn't like the idea of the teachers always telling him what to do. He felt they had not respected him. The result was he stayed off

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the streets and in his room most of the day. He was close to twenty and had needs with the neighborhood girls, but no money to spend, and he couldn't get more than an occasional few cents because his father was poor, and his sister Sophie, who resembled George, a tall bony girl of twenty-three, earned very little and what she had she kept for herself. Their mother was dead, and Sophie had to take care of the house.

Very early in the morning George's father got up to go to work in a fish market. Sophie left at about eight for her long ride in the subway to a cafeteria in the Bronx. George had his coffee by himself, then hung around in the house. When the house, a five-room railroad flat above a butcher store, got on his nerves he cleaned it up - mopped the floors with a wet mop and put things away. But most of the time he sat in his room. In the afternoons he listened to the ball game. Otherwise he had a couple of old copies of the *World Almanac* he had bought long ago, and he liked to read in them and also the magazines and newspapers that Sophie brought home, that had been left on the tables in the cafeteria. They were mostly picture magazines about movie stars and sports figures, also usually the *News* and *Mirror*. Sophie herself read whatever fell into her hands, although she sometimes read good books.

She once asked George what he did in his room all day and he said he read a lot too.

"Of what besides what I bring home? Do you ever read any worthwhile books?"

"Some," George answered, although he really didn't. He had tried to read a book or two that Sophie had in the house but found he was in no mood for them. Lately he couldn't stand made-up stories, they got on his nerves. He wished he had some hobby to work at - as a kid he was good in carpentry, but where could he work at it? Sometimes during the day he went

for walks, but mostly he did his walking after the hot sun had gone down and it was cooler in the streets.

In the evening after supper George left the house and wandered in the neighborhood. During the *sultry* (רותחים) days some of the storekeepers and their wives sat in chairs on the thick, broken sidewalks in front of the shops, fanning themselves, and George walked past them and the guys hanging out on the candy store corner. A couple of them he had known his whole life, but nobody recognized each other. He had no place special to go, but generally, saving it till the last, he left the neighborhood and walked for blocks till he came to a darkly lit little park with benches and trees and an iron railing, giving it a feeling of privacy. He sat on a bench here, watching the leafy trees and the flowers blooming on the inside of the railing, thinking of a better life for himself. He thought of the jobs he had had since he had quit school - delivery boy, stock clerk, runner, lately working in a factory - and he was *dissatisfied* (לא מרוצה) with all of them. He felt he should someday like to have a job and live in a private house with a porch, on a street with trees. He wanted to have some dough in his pocket to buy things with, and a girl to go with, so as not to be lonely, especially on Saturday nights. He wanted people to like and respect him. He thought about these things often but mostly when he was alone at night. Around midnight he got up and drifted back to his hot and stony neighborhood.

<2>

One time while on his walk George met Mr. Cattanzara coming home very late from work. He wondered if he was drunk but then could tell he wasn't. Mr. Cattanzara, a stocky, baldheaded man who worked in a change booth on an IRT station, lived on the next block after George's, above a shoe repair store. Nights, during the hot weather, he sat on his stoop in an

undershirt, reading the *New York Times* in the light of the shoemaker's window. He read it from the first page to the last, then went up to sleep. And all the time he was reading the paper, his wife, a fat woman with a white face, leaned out of the window, gazing into the street, her thick white arms folded under her loose breast, on the window ledge.

Once in a while Mr. Cattanzara came home drunk, but it was a quiet drunk. He never made any trouble, only walked stiffly up the street and slowly climbed the stairs into the hall. Though drunk, he looked the same as always, except for his tight walk, the quietness, and that his eyes were wet. George liked Mr. Cattanzara because he remembered him giving him nickels to buy lemon ice with when he was a *squirt* (ילד קטן). Mr. Cattanzara was a different type than those in the neighborhood. He asked different questions than the others when he met you, and he seemed to know that went on in all the newspapers. He read them, as his fat sick wife watched from the window.

"What are you doing with yourself this summer, Goerge?" Mr. Cattanzara asked. "I see you walkin' around at nights."

George felt embarrassed. "I like to walk."

"What are you doin' in the day now?"

"Nothing much just right now. I'm waiting for a job." Since it shamed him to admit he wasn't working, George said, "I'm staying home - but I'm reading a lot to pick up my education."

Mr. Cattanzara looked interested. He mopped his hot face with a red handkerchief.

"What are you readin'?"

George hesitated, then said, "I got a list of books in the library once, and now I'm gonna read them this summer." He felt strange and a little unhappy saying this, but he wanted Mr. Cattanzara to respect him.

"How many books are there on it?"

"I never counted them. Maybe around a hundred."

Mr. Cattanzara whistled through his teeth.

"I figure if I did that," George went on *earnestly* (בכנות), "it would help me in my education. I don't mean the kind they give you in high school. I want to know different things than they learn there, if you know what I mean."

The change maker nodded. "Still and all, one hundred books is a pretty big load for one summer."

"It might take longer."

"After you're finished with some, maybe you and I can *shoot the breeze* (לפטפט) about them?" said Mr. Cattanzara.

"When I'm finished," George answered.

Mr. Cattanzara went home and George continued on his walk. After that, though he had the urge to, George did nothing different from usual. He still took his walks at night, ending up in the little park. But one evening the shoemaker on the next block stopped George to say he was a good boy, and George figured that Mr. Cattanzara had told him all about the books he was reading. From the shoemaker it must have gone down the street, because George saw a couple of people smiling kindly at him, though nobody spoke to him personally. He felt a little better around the neighborhood and liked it more, though not so much he would want to live in it for ever. He had never exactly disliked the people in it, yet he had never liked them very much either.

It was the fault of the neighborhood. To his surprise, George found out that his father and Sophie knew about his reading too. His father was too shy to say anything about it - he was never much of a talker in his whole life - but Sophie was softer to George, and she showed him in other ways she was proud of him.

As the summer went on George felt in a good mood about things. He cleaned the house every day, as a favor to Sophie, and he enjoyed the ball

games more. Sophie gave him a buck a week *allowance* (דמי כיס), and though it still wasn't enough and he had to use it carefully, it was a helluva lot better than just having two bits now and then. What he bought with the money - cigarettes mostly, an occasional beer or movie ticket - he got a big kick out of. Life wasn't so bad if you knew how to appreciate it. Occasionally he bought a paperback book from the new-stand, but he never got around to reading it, though he was glad to have a couple of books in his room. But he read thoroughly Sophie's magazines and newspapers. And at night was the most enjoyable time, because when he passed the storekeepers sitting outside their stores, he could tell they regarded him highly. He walked *erect* (זקוף), and though he did not say much to them, or they to him, he could feel approval on all sides. A couple of nights he felt so good that he skipped the park at the end of the evening. He just wandered in the neighborhood, where people had known him from the time he was a kid playing punchball whenever there was a game of it going; he wandered there, then came home and got undressed for bed, feeling fine.

<3>

For a few weeks he had talked only once with Mr. Cattanzara, and though the change maker had said nothing more about the books, asked no questions, his silence made George a little uneasy. For a while George didn't pass in front of Mr. Cattanzara's house any more, until one night, forgetting himself, he approached it from a different direction than he usually did when he did. It was already past midnight. The street, except for one or two people, was deserted, and George was surprised when he saw Mr. Cattanzara still reading his newspaper by the light of the street lamp overhead. His impulse was to stop at the stoop and talk to him. He wasn't sure what he wanted to say, though he felt the words would come when he

began to talk; but the more he thought about it, the more the idea scared him, and he decided he'd better not. He even considered beating it home by another street, but he was too near Mr. Cattanzara, and the change maker might see him as he ran, and get annoyed. So George *unobtrusively* (בצורה חשאית) crossed the street, trying to make it seem as if he had to look in a store window on the other side, which he did, and then went on, uncomfortable at what he was doing. He feared Mr. Cattanzara would glance up from his paper and call him a dirty rat for walking on the other side of the street, but all he did was sit there, sweating through his undershirt, his bald head shining in the dim light as he read his *Times*, and upstairs his fat wife leaned out of the window, seeming to read the paper along with him. George thought she would spy him and yell out to Mr. Cattanzara, but she never moved her eyes off her husband.

George made up his mind to stray away from the change maker until he had got some of his softback books read, but when he started them and saw they were mostly story books, he lost his interest and didn't bother to finish them. He lost his interest in reading other things too. Sophie's magazines and newspapers went unread. She saw them piling up on a chair in his room and asked why he was no longer looking at them, and George told her it was because of all the other reading he had to do. Sophie said she had guessed that was it. So for most of the day, George had the radio on, turning to music when he was sick of the human voice. He kept the house fairly neat, and Sophie said nothing on the days when he neglected it. She was still kind and gave him his extra buck, though things weren't so good for him as they had been before.

But they were good enough, considering. Also his night walks *invariably* (בקביעות) picked him up, no matter how bad the day was. Then one night George saw Mr. Cattanzara coming down the street towards him. George

was about to turn and run but he recognized from Mr. Cattanzara's walk that he was drunk, and if so, probably he would not even bother to notice him. So George kept on walking straight ahead until he came abreast of Mr. Cattanzara and though he felt *wound up* (מתוח) enough to pop into the sky, he was not surprised when Mr. Cattanzara passed him without a word, walking slowly, his face and body still. George drew a breath in relief at his narrow escape, when he heard his name called, and there stood Mr. Cattanzara at his elbow, smelling like the inside of a beer barrel. His eyes were sad as he gazed at George, and George felt so intensely uncomfortable he was tempted to shove the drunk aside and continue on his walk.

But he couldn't act that way to him, and, besides, Mr. Cattanzara took a nickel out of his pants pocket and handed it to him.

"Go buy yourself a lemon ice, Georgie."

"It's not that time any more, Mr. Cattanzara," George said, "I am a big guy now."

"No, you ain't," said Mr. Cattanzara, to which George made no reply he could think of.

"How are all your books comin' along?" Mr. Cattanzara asked. Though he tried to stand steady, he *swayed* (התנדנד) a little.

"Fine, I guess," said George, feeling the red crawling up his face.

"You ain't sure?" The change maker smiled *slyly* (בערמומיות), a way George had never seen him smile.

"Sure I'm sure. They're fine."

Though his head swayed in little arcs, Mr. Cattanzara's eyes were steady. He had small blue eyes which could hurt if you looked at them too long.

"George," he said, "name me one book on that list that you read this summer, and I will drink to your health."

"I don't want anybody drinking to me."

"Name me one so I can ask you a question on it. Who can tell, if it's a good book maybe I might wanna read it myself."

George knew he looked passable on the outside, but inside he was *crumbling apart* (מתפורר).

Unable to reply, he shut his eyes, but when - years later - he opened them, he saw that Mr. Cattanzara had, out of pity, gone away, but in his ears he still heard the words he had said when he left: "George, don't do what I did."

<4>

The next night he was afraid to leave his room, and though Sophie argued with him he wouldn't open the door.

"What are you doing in there?" she asked.

"Nothing."

"Are you reading?"

"No."

She was silent a minute, then asked, "Where do you keep the books you read? I never see any in your room outside of a few cheap trashy ones."

He wouldn't tell her.

"In that case you're not worth a buck of my hard-earned money. Why should I break my back for you? Go on out, you bum, and get a job."

He stayed in his room for almost a week, except to sneak into the kitchen when nobody was home. Sophie railed at him, then begged him to come out, and his old father wept, but George wouldn't budge, though the weather was terrible and his small room stifling. He found it very hard to breathe, each breath was like drawing a flame into his lungs.

<5>

One night, unable to stand the heat any more, he burst into the street at one a.m., a shadow of himself. He hoped to sneak to the park without being seen, but there were people all over the block, *wilted and listless* (נבולים) (ואדישים), waiting for a breeze. George lowered his eyes and walked, in disgrace, away from them, but before long he discovered they were still friendly to him. He figured Mr. Cattanzara hadn't told on him. Maybe when he woke up out of his drunk the next morning, he had forgotten all about meeting George. George felt his confidence slowly come back to him.

That same night a man on a street corner asked him if it was true that he had finished reading so many books, and George admitted he had. The man said it was a wonderful thing for a boy his age to read so much.

"Yeah," George said, but he felt relieved. He hoped nobody would mention the books any more, and when, after a couple of days, he accidentally met Mr. Cattanzara again, *he didn't*, though George had the idea he was the one who had started the rumor that he had finished all the books.

One evening in the fall, George ran out of his house to the library, where he hadn't been in years. There were books all over the place, wherever he looked, and though he was struggling to control an inward *trembling* (רעד), he easily counted off a hundred, then sat down at a table to read.

A Summer's Reading – Summary

A Summer's Reading is about a young man; George Stoyonovich, who feels like people do not respect him in his neighborhood because he does not have a job and has not finished school. George feels like school was a waste of time because it did not teach about important aspects of life. Then George runs into a man that he respects, George *exaggerates* (מגזים) the reading he has done and soon people find out. George begins to feel respected in the neighborhood after people find out he reads.

Some background:

- In a typical immigrant neighborhood in New York City, everyone tries to succeed.
- The key word is proper education, while moving through a dynamic process of growing up and taking responsibility .
- Reading books in the summer is what George would like to do... But, will he?

Major Characters

- **George Stoyonovich:** The meaning of Stoyonovich in Polish is "Staying in one place". George is a nineteen-year-old high-school dropout living aimlessly in the working-class neighborhood in Brooklyn. He "**considered registering in a night high school**" but "**he did not like the idea of the teachers always telling him what to do. He felt they had not respected him.**"

- **Sophie Stoyonovich:** George's elder sister, a "tall bony girl of twenty-three" who works at a cafeteria in the Bronx. She has to take care of the house because their mother was dead. She sometimes reads "good books."
- **Mr. Cattanzara:** The meaning of Cattanzara in Italian is "Chained to a place". "Mr. C. is a stocky, bald-headed man who worked in a change booth on an IRT [subway] station," living on the next block to George's. He reads the *New York Times* "from the first page to the last"; in short, he is the "intellectual" of the neighborhood.

Chronology of Events:

- *Nearly four years ago*, George Stoyonovich had quit high school "on an impulse" when he was sixteen.
- "*This summer*" [the beginning of the story] is a hard time for jobs and George, now "close to twenty", has none. Having no money to spend, he stays off the streets and spends most of the day in his room. Sophie urges him to read some "worthwhile books" but he is in no mood for them: "Lately he couldn't stand made-up stories, they got on his nerves."
- *One evening*, while on his walk, George meets Mr. Cattanzara coming home very late from work. George tells him that he is reading one hundred great books in the library list. He wants Mr. Cattanzara to respect him.
- "*After that*", George does nothing different from usual but he finds the people in the neighborhood start calling him "a good boy." He feels himself being respected because of the books he is *not* reading.

- "*As the summer went on* George felt in a good mood about things." He occasionally buys paperback books but he never gets around to reading them. Yet, "he could feel approval on all sides." "*For a few weeks*" he talks only once with Mr. Cattanzara, who says nothing about the books. George decides to stay away from "the change maker."
- "*Then one night*" George sees Mr. Cattanzara, a little drunk, walking toward him. He hands a nickel to George, saying "Go buy yourself a lemon ice, George," as he used to do when George was a "squirt." Asked to name one book on the list he has read so far, George cannot answer. After saying, "George, don't do what I did," Mr. Cattanzara leaves.
- "*The next night*" George is afraid to leave his room. Sophie finds out that his brother is not reading a single book on the list and calls him a "bum."
- "*One night*," after staying in his room "*for almost a week*" George sneaks to the park unable to stand the heat. Unexpectedly, he finds people still friendly to him. A man on a street corner asks him if it is true that "he had finished reading so many books."
- "*After a couple of days*," George sees Mr. Cattanzara again. He feels that Mr. Cattanzara "had started the rumor that he had finished all the books."
- "*One evening in the fall*," George runs to the library and "though he was struggling to control an inward trembling, he easily counted off a hundred, then sat down at a table to read."

Literary Analysis

Respect is a very dominant and important factor in the story of Bernard Malamud, “A Summer’s Reading.” The search for respect from the people around him causes a lot of dilemma within the main character, George Stoyonovich. And those dilemmas lead to consequences that George hates. George, a high school drop out, cannot get any job during one summer. He decides to read the magazines found at home. But when he meets Mr. Cattanzara, **he immediately lies about the hundred books he is reading, in order for Mr. Cattanzara to respect him as well as to be proud of him.**

Respect is a form of acknowledgement of one’s existence. **Respect is very important to everybody. Respect also gives a person a sense of confidence that he is not a failure and contradicts the idea that he is not good enough.** People want respect because they want others to know how good they are. Though everybody wants it, most people often take it for granted. The irony of it all is that people wants it so much that they would do anything just to get it.

In the story, the theme *Respect is very important for everybody* was shown a couple of times. An example of these scenes is when George was *contemplating* (להתלבט) whether or not he should attend the night classes. *“He has considered registering in a night high school, only he did not like the idea of teachers always telling him what to do. He felt that they had not respected him.”* He decides that since he has nothing to do at home, attending night-class would be great and it would help him catch up on the lessons he has missed. **But that the idea of teachers telling him what to**

do causes George to think twice. He thinks that when his teachers tell him what to do or should not do it shows a lack of respect on the teachers' part. He then feels that he is not good enough and loses confidence in himself. But in reality, when people tell you what to do, it means that they are concerned about you and that they know that you can do better but it does not really mean that you are not good enough as a person. They are actually acknowledging your abilities and your capabilities which also acknowledge your existence. George searches for respect because it is where he gets the confidence that will enable him to move on forward with his life.

Another instance in the story where it shows respect is very important is when George tells Mr. Cattanzara that he is reading a hundred books for the summer. **He wants Mr. Cattanzara to respect him that he is willing to lie in order to achieve that respect. He wants Mr. Cattanzara that to know that he is more than just a boy who dropped out of school and who cannot get a decent job.** And that he can also do things which people around him can be proud of. When he found out that his neighbors knew what he was doing for the summer, George instantly became confident that he is not a nobody anymore in the community. People in his community respect him now. But what did George do with the respect shown to him? He did not fulfill his "end of the bargain". He thinks that being respected is enough already but he must learn that he should "walk the talk". He must do what he says he will do because if the people finds out that he is just pure "talk" and no concrete actions are being done, people will start to doubt him and eventually George will lose the respect that his neighbors gave him.

Ultimately, Mr. Cattanzara senses that George was not telling him the whole truth. He knew that George really did not finish reading all those books as what he has said he has done. **Maybe the reason why Mr. Cattanzara did**

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not told the others about George's lie is because he knows that George did not want to lose the admiration that the people have for him. And he thought that he could help George by confronting him himself. Though George lied to Mr. Cattanzara, he still respected George and decides to confront him privately instead of telling the whole neighborhood what George has done.

People find it absurdly important to become renowned and, at its very base, respected because they feel confident when they are being respected. People are ready to do anything in order to gain the respect that they want even to the extent of lying and betraying the trust of a certain person just like what the main character did in the short story. George's search for respect led him to lying to the only person who listened to him when he was feeling sad and down. Respect is, indeed, essential in any relationship. **Respect gives a person a sense of self-esteem that he could do anything because there is someone who respects and trusts him. But in searching for respect, one must remember that he should achieve it in the proper and honest way.**

Questions

LOTS questions

1. Where did the story take place?
.....
2. Why did George quit school?
.....
.....
3. Where does George's father/sister work?
.....
.....
4. What do we learn about George's mother?
.....
5. How does George spend his time?
.....
.....
6. What kinds of things do George and Sophie like to read? Do they like to read the same things?
.....
.....
7. Where does George go in the evening?
.....
8. What kinds of jobs has George done? How does he feel about them?
.....
9. Name the things (at least two) George would like to have in the future?
.....
10. Who is Mr. Cattanzara?