Cinderella Man

Chapter 1
While reading
1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?
   a Tuffy Griffiths is a fighter from New York City.
   □
   b Jim Braddock won a lot of fights before his fight with Tuffy Griffiths.
   □
   c Jimmy Johnston did not want Jim Braddock to win the fight.
   □
   d Joe Gould is always very careful about the things he says.
   □
   e Jim waited to marry Mae because he didn’t have enough money.
   □
   f Mae loves to watch Jim fight.
   □

Chapter 2–3
While reading
2 Complete these sentences in your own words.
   a Jim’s wedding photograph makes him think about …………………….
   b Jim tells his wife that if he wins the fight with Abe Feldman, he …………………….
   c Although he has not eaten, Jim gives ………………………….
   d After the stock market crash, the Braddock family lost ………………………….
   e It is more and more difficult for Joe Gould to ………………………….
   f Ben points a gun at the foreman’s heart because ………………………….

3 Why does Jay steal the meat? What does Jim do about it? If you were Jim, what would you do? ………………………….

Chapter 4–5
While reading
4 Discuss these questions.
   a Why was Joe Jeanette a hero to Jim?
   b Why didn’t Jeanette ever fight for the title?
   c How does Jeanette feel about Jim?
   d Why does Joe Gould shake his head at Jeanette?

5 Underline the correct word(s).
   a Jim got another fight / job to make more money.
   □
   b The policemen decide not to lock the family out of their home because they respect Jim / Mike.
   □
   c After the electricity and heat is turned off, Howard begins to cough / cry.
   □
   d Mae sends Rosy to live with her father / sister.
   □
   e Jim’s dreams seemed to end after his fight with Tommy Loughran / Tuffy Griffiths.
   □
   f After Jim goes to the Madison Square Garden boxing club, he feels ashamed / hopeful.

Chapters 6–7
While reading
6 Look at these sentences from Chapters 6 and 7. Say who is talking and who the person is talking to. Say why the person says the sentence.
   a “It was better when we had our own cake.”
   □
   b “You’re always trying to fix the world.”
   □
   c “Maybe he just needed a little time.”
   □
   d “You have a better jab than I did!”
   □
   e “You’re meat, Jimmy.”
   □
   f “It’s not for me. It’s for my dad.”
   □
   g “Am I seeing a ghost?”
   □
   h “I can’t believe it!”
   □

7 Answer these questions.
   a After Jim fights Corn Griffin, he watches another fight. Who are the fighters?
   □
   b What happens in that fight?
   □
   c What is “so terrible” that Jim cannot watch it?

Chapters 8–9
While reading
8 Number these events in the right order, from 1 to 10.
   a Jimmy Johnston agrees to give Jim a fight with John Henry Lewis.
   □
   b Mike tells Jim he’s put some money on him for the fight.
   □
   c Mae pretends to be a radio announcer.
   □
   d Jim wins his fight against Art Lasky.
   □
   e Jim starts training with Joe Jeanette.
   □
   f Joe Gould visits Jim’s apartment.
   □
   g Jim wins his fight against John Henry Lewis.
   □
   h Mae visits Joe’s apartment.
   □
   i Jimmy Johnston announces he will organize fights among the top heavyweight boxers.
   □
   j Jim tells Mae he has a chance for more fights.
   □
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9 Complete these sentences in your own words.
   a When Jim says “It was just the one fight,”
      Mae feels ..........................................
   b Mae stops being angry when she enters Joe
      Gould’s apartment because ..........................
   c Because Jim has been working at the docks,
      he has gotten a strong ..............................
   d When Jim steps out of his apartment house,
      he finds that his neighbors .........................
   e Compared to Lewis, Lasky was slower but he
      was ........................................................

Chapters 10–11
While reading
10 Choose the correct answer.
   a Jim used some of his prize money to pay
      back …
      1 Joe Gould.
      2 the butcher.
      3 the relief office.
   b After the Crash of 1929, many people in New
      York became …
      1 homeless.
      2 ill.
      3 employed.
   c Jim found Mike in a pool of blood under a …
      1 trash can.
      2 wagon.
      3 subway train.

11 Choose one or more of the words from the
   box for each person.
   angry brave careful cruel honest
   rich scared thankful violent
   a Jim Braddock: .................................
   b Mae Braddock: ...............................  
   c Joe Gould: .................................
   d Jimmy Johnston: .........................
   e Sporty Lewis: ..............................
   f Max Baer: .................................

Chapters 12–13
While reading
12 Underline and correct the mistakes in these
   sentences about the first part of the big fight.
   a When Jim walked to the ring, the crowd was
      silent.
   b Jim won the first round on punches, but Baer
      was not worried.
   c In the second round, Baer threw a lot of
      punches at Jim’s arms because he knew they
      were weak.
   d In the third round, Baer gave a big right-hand
      punch to Jim’s head.
   e The crowd booed at Jim during the fourth
      round.
   f In the fifth round, Jim’s manager warned Baer
      that he had thrown an illegal punch.
   g Jim threw a strong punch to Baer’s chest that
      made him step back.
   h In round seven, everyone is surprised that
      neither Jim nor Baer are still fighting.

Chapter 14
While reading
13 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?
   a Jim hits Baer below the belt in the twelfth
      round. ........................................... F
   b Baer isn’t hitting as hard as he usually does.  
      .................................................. F
   c Mae doesn’t listen to the fight on the
      radio. ...........................................  
      .................................................. F
   d Baer wanted to end the fight with a
      knockout, but he couldn’t do it. ..........  
      .................................................. F
   e After becoming heavyweight champion
      of the world, Jim never fought again.  
      .................................................. F

After reading
14 Discuss these questions with another student
   and write your answer.
   a At the end of the fight with Max Baer, the
      judges decided that Jim Braddock was the
      winner. Why? Make a list of possible reasons.
      .................................................................
   b On the back of the book you will find a
      “blurb”—a short description of the story. A
      good blurb should make people want to read
      the book to find out more. Write your own
      blurb for Cinderella Man. Don’t look at the
      back cover!
      .................................................................
   c What have you learned about the sport of
      boxing from this book? Has it changed the
      way you feel about the sport in any way?
      .................................................................
   d Jim Braddock has two great loves in his life:
      boxing and his family. Which is most
      important to him, do you think? Give reasons
      for your answers.
      .................................................................
Chapter 1
1 Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

- fights - gym - heavyweight - house - prize

a Jim Braddock and Tuffy Griffin fight for the light ................. championship.
b Jim met Joe Gould in a ................. .
c Joe doesn’t like to talk to Mae Braddock about ................. money.
d Jim waited to marry Mae until he could buy a ................. .
e Mae hated to watch Jim’s ................. .

Chapters 2–3
2 Underline the correct words.

a In 1933, Jim and this family live in a small house / apartment.
b The Braddock family keep the money they save in a bank / jar.
c May / Rosie tells Jim that Jay stole something.
d Joe does one thing / two things that are illegal before Jim’s fight against Feldman.

Chapters 4–5
3 Write right (✓) or wrong (✗) or it does not say (?)

a Mae helps Jim to hide his cast. ✓
b Mae takes a free bowl of soup and some bread home after waiting in line. ✗
c Jim asked a young black boxer to buy his shoes for one dollar. ✗
d The electricity man is sorry to cut off the Braddocks’ electricity. ✗
e Mike supports President Roosevelt. √
f Jimmy Johnston is the only person at the boxing club who doesn’t give Jim money. ✗

Chapters 6–7
4 Complete these sentences in your own words.

a Sara is angry at her husband because ____________________________.
b Joe says Jim can fight without a boxing license because ____________________________.
c Joe is worried about the fight against Griffin because Jim ____________________________.
d Primo Carnera loses the fight because Max Baer is ____________________________.

Chapters 8–9
5 Choose the correct ending (1–6) to each of the sentences a–f.

a When Mae pretends to be a radio announcer, her children are ...
b Jim’s fight makes the men at the docks feel .....
c When Mae visits Joe and his wife, they are .....
d When Joe tells Jim he has a fight with John Henry Lewis, Jim feels .....
e When Mae tells Jim she will always support him, she is ..

1 worried.
2 friendly.
3 hopeful.
4 amused.
5 excited.

Chapters 10–11
6 Match the speakers with the words.

a “Did you win?” 1 Sara Wilson
b “She’s scared for Max Baer.” 2 Jimmy Johnston
c “He’ll see it or there’ll be no fight.” 3 Max Baer
d “Something’s wrong. I know it is.” 4 Jim Braddock
e “Look, it’s the Cinderella Man!” 5 Mike Wilson

Chapters 12–13
7 What happened first? Put the sentences in order and number them, 1–8.

a Mae tells Jim she supports him. 

b Baer throws Jim onto the ropes.

c The children listen to the radio and Mae’s sister joins them.

d Baer learns that Jim has weak ribs.

e Mae says she doesn’t want her sons to be boxers.

f Baer hits Jim below the belt.

g Mae talks to Father Rorick.

h Jim and his trainer watch films of Max Baer.

Chapters 14
8 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

a Jim’s face is cut under his nose. T
b Sporty Lewis refuses to cheer for Jim. T
c Baer is standing when the final bell rings. T
d The judges announce their decision immediately. T
e Jim thinks of the prize money after the fight. T
f Jim fights one more time after he becomes heavyweight champion of the world. T