Cinderella Man Viewing Guide

James J. Braddock is an up-and-coming boxer finding success and wealth in the late 1920s. The crash of the stock market and the Great Depression quickly changes all of that. Nursing an injured hand, Braddock continues to fight in low paying matches, struggles for work at the local docks, and tries to keep his family fed and their one room apartment warm. This movie is an accurate, heart-wrenching historical depiction of one American family’s ethical struggles during the Great Depression as well as one man’s determination to hold on to his integrity and his family.

1. In what year does the movie begin?

2. How much is Braddock paid for his fight?

3. How would you describe the living conditions in 1928?

4. Based on the items on Braddock’s dresser, would you consider him to be well off? Why or why not?

5. How have things changed for him by September of 1933?

6. What evidence is there of hard times facing Braddock’s family?

7. What makes Mae send her children away?



8. Why does Braddock go on government relief? Why is he so reluctant to do it?

9. What does Mae learn about Braddock’s manager when she visits him? What does that say about the Depression?

10. After the Lasky fight, what does Braddock take to the New Jersey Relief Agency?

11. At the press conference, what does Braddock say about returning his relief money?

12. According to the sports writers, what impact does Braddock’s comeback have on people?

14. Why do you think Jimmy Braddock inspired so many people during the Great Depression?