**Rudy – Part I**

1.What type of town does Rudy live in? How would you classify his family’s economic status and the town’s?

Rudy lives in Joliet, IL., an industrialized steel town, and his families socioeconomic class is relatively low. They have 14 occupants in a small house and most work, indicating money is tight. This was also hinted at when Rudy's father said Notre Dame is for rich kids.

2.How do we feel about the teacher telling Rudy that “not everyone is meant to go to college?” Is he being mean or just realistic?

He is being a bit of both. He is being mean in that he is judging Rudy based off his socioeconomic status. The man can’t judge Rudy on academic achievements just by looking at him. The man is also being a bit realistic, it’s not as though, from what the man heard of Rudy’s life story, that he can afford college.

3.What type of person is Rudy’s father? Share some positive and negative characteristics of his father.

Rudy's father is a man who has been shaped by manual labor, and core values of Americans in the industrialist era. The way Rudy’s father see’s it, if you're born in a steel town, you die there. This makes him old fashioned and discouraging of Rudy’s dreams. He is scarred by his father’s leaving, and is therefore against Rudy trying new things. His positive characteristics are his hard working attitude, and his breaking up fights. His negative characteristics are him not supporting his son’s dreams, and his failure to see new things.

4.What is so important about Pete’s death? (besides that he was Rudy’s friend) What did Rudy say Pete was the only person to do in his life?

Rudy said Pete was the only one who ever took Rudy’s dreams seriously. Pete’s death inspired Rudy to finally chase his dreams and go to Notre Dame. Rudy knew that it’s what Pete would’ve wanted so he went to Notre Dame.

5. “Chasing a stupid dream causes nothing for you and everyone around you nothing but heartache…” How do we feel about this statement by Rudy’s father. What is his father’s reason for making this statement?

This statement is Rudy’s father pulling on his personal experience in order to give advice to Rudy. The consequence of Rudy’s father’s action was so bad, that he never recovered and hence taught his son to never try anything new. Although it is wrong, a viewer can’t blame Rudy’s father for what he said after his experience. His reasoning for making such a statement was that when he was 12 he persuaded his father to start a dairy farm, however later the cows all died. It was the depression, the land was worthless, and the pressure was too great so Rudy’s grandfather left. Rudy’s father assigned blame to himself.

6.If Rudy always wanted to go to Notre Dame, why didn’t he just get better grades when he was in High School?

Rudy says that he tried, but it wasn’t until pete died that he really became fully motivated.

7.Father Cavanaugh says he will get him into the Holy Cross. What does this do for Rudy besides just getting him into school? What does it provide for Rudy?

This gives Rudy a place to stay while he is working on getting into notre dame, but more so it gives him hope. Hope that he will be able to get into Notre Dame. It also gives him an opportunity to study hard and get into Notre Dame.