**Activity: Mr. Fitton will randomly place some of these questions on a table. Groups will then have to circulate to each table and for 3 minutes discuss each question. A bell will ring, and then new groups will form and go to new tables. There, they will discuss the questions. Students will rotate through several tables. (Questions will be cut into strips).**

1. What is the purpose of the film? Is it simply to glorify violence in sport or does it encompass a deeper meaning and message? Explain the meaning/message(s)

2.What elements of the film make James Braddock a real man? His fighting or his love for his wife and children?

3.Why was James Braddock a symbol of hope for the masses of unemployed and destitute poor) Americans during the Great Depression?

4."There's no such thing as a hero- only ordinary people asked to do extraordinary things in

terrible circumstances and delivering." This quote describes the life of James J. Braddock. Do you agree? Explain why/why not

5.Jay stole salami. What did his father make him do? Do you agree with what his father made him do? Why or why not?

6.Jim’s Trainer, Joe, questions Jim by saying “pardon me miss”. He was being patronizing (picking on him) and making what statement about Jim Braddock? Do you think Joe would accept women in the sport of boxing? Making sexist remarks which belittle either sex are not acceptable. What stereotyping from Joe was made in his comment to Jim?

7.Jim begins a friendship with Mike and they head off to the pub after work. Mike orders a beer and Jim orders water. Throughout the film we see many selfless (opposite of selfish) acts from Jim that shows he is always focused on the needs of his family. Explain

other examples like this, from the film

8. 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. What are some examples of how females are portrayed ?

9. Mae broke up the family and separated the children without first speaking to her husband. Do you think what she did was right? If you were may, explain to the children why they had to be separated.

10. We see more than one argument between families. What makes the Braddock family different?

11.Jim teaches Rosie some boxing moves. Is this outside what is expected of the two gender roles? Explain.

12. We see Jim training by skipping. Skipping is traditionally (usually) assigned to be a girl’s sport. Today we know that boxers, footballers and basketballers do other forms of exercise once considered “girly.” What are some of these forms of exercise?

13.After winning the title Jim returns to the Welfare Agency. Why? Throughout the film we repeatedly see events that define his strength of character. Discuss as a group some of the instances.

14.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?

22. James J Braddock said to his wife, Mae “Cinderella Man – Mae I kinda like it it’s kinda girlish” We need to think about this quote, in terms of gender. Boxing was considered the masculine thing to do; it was a one on one process of determining who the strongest

man was. Should we only consider physical strength? Did Jim Braddock have other strengths?

23. How does “Cinderella Man” subvert (break/get rid of) the gender stereotyping of males being the stronger gender and females the weaker?

25. Historically men are defined as the fighters and women as the homemakers. Explain how “Cinderella Man” breaks down the barriers?

26. How did James J. Braddock’s character shape his destiny (his future)?

27. How did the visual and sound elements combine to represent life in America during the Depression years? What is your favorite scene and why?

28. Max Baer’s family was not happy with the way in which he was portrayed ( showed)in the film. They have stated that he had 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 (money he won) 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 of Braddock’s life to portray Baer in such a negative

manner? Explain your feelings.

29. Discuss some of the key scenes in the film that express the meaning of Jim and Mae’s marriage. What values did they share in their marriage through both good and tough times?

30. How did Jim and Mae show their respect for one another? What challenges did their love and respect for each have to meet so that the Braddock’s could stay a family?

31. How is the hardship and poverty of the Great Depression represented in the film? How do the Braddock’s deal with this? What does this show about their characters?

32. As a boxer, Braddock was fearless. But he demonstrated even more courage in fighting for family values. What lesson can we learn from his story today?

33. What struggles did James J. Braddock face throughout the movie? Did you like James Braddock?Why or why not?

34.What issues do people today deal with that are similar to those of the Braddock family? How are today's issues different? What sorts of new issues will our children face?

35.The Great Depression affected everyone to some degree. How were the people in the movie affected? How were the different classes of people affected?

36.Doing what is right is sometimes difficult. How difficult was it for Braddock to pay off his debt to the government at a time when no one was giving back?

37. The scene where Braddock's son explains why he stole is extremely powerful. Would you steal if your family hadn't eaten in a week, or if your family's ability to stay together depended on it? How do you feel about the ethics of this decision?

38.Braddock states that he knows what he is fighting for: milk. How does that make you feel about what you have today? Should we be ashamed for having Xboxes, big screen TVs, cell phones, and the latest digital cameras? Although Braddock was fighting for milk, he knew that winning also meant fame and money. Do you think that he wanted this fame? Why or why not?

39. Today's society is critiqued for being lazy. Is it? Why or why not? Could you have shown the same determination that Braddock did to succeed? Explain.

40. How has this movie changed the way you view the struggles your Grandparents and Great Grandparents went through?

41. How has this movie contributed to you developing a greater understanding of the day to day life of those who lived during the depression.