

Friday Night Lights, Prologue

Text-Specific Questions:

1. What is on Boobie's mind throughout the day of the game?
2. What details suggest that he might not be able to achieve the "Superstar of the Week" honor?
3. What is on McDougal's mind throughout the day of the game?
4. What sensation is he looking for in the game?
5. What is on Winchell's mind throughout the day of the game?
6. Why was Algebra II a relief for him?
7. What is on Ivory Christian's mind the day of the game?
8. How would you describe Christian's ambivalence?
9. What phrases does Billinger use to describe the fans on pages 14 and 15?
10. What tone does the author create in the prologue to describe the feeling surrounding the game between Permian and Midland Lee? Identify words, phrases, and sentences that help you identify this tone.

Friday Night Lights, Chapter 1

Discussion Questions:

1. On page 24, the author states that the history of Permian football found in the city library is more detailed than any history of the city. What is this foreshadowing? Why would the author make this statement?
2. Reread the second sentence on page 25. What can be inferred from this statement? What evidence supports this statement?

Text-Specific Questions:

1. In the prologue, how does Bissinger describe the player you have selected to follow?
2. What evidence does he use to describe him, including his personality, his actions, and his self-image?

Homework Question:

1. On the last page of Chapter 1, Bissinger says, "In just about a week the team would be officially unveiled to the public. And from that moment on, it would become the property of those so desperately devoted to it." How does this quote support the perspective Bissinger develops in Chapter 1?

Friday Night Lights, Chapter 2

Discussion Questions:

1. What notes or thoughts did you write in your Learning Log about this quote?
2. What is the author suggesting by writing this quote?
3. What are the key words in this quote?
4. What feelings are imparted on the players based on the citizens' emotions?
5. How does this fit into our original definition of the word fandom?

Discussion Questions:

1. Through the first page of Chapter 2, how does Bissinger portray the fans of Permian? What words, phrases, or sentences does he use? Do you see this as a positive or negative description? Why?
2. Why does Bissinger make the statement about political parties on page 42, Paragraph 3? What is his perspective on the political leanings of Odessa? How do you know?
3. Look at this quote from page 43: "Mojo football, it helps you survive all this sand, the wind, the heat. I wouldn't live any other place." Make some inferences from this quote.
4. What does the idea that selling real estate in Odessa is a "herculean task" say about the city?
5. How does Ross Perot's analysis of Odessa and Permian football appear to a nonresident of Odessa? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
6. Bissinger describes players that play hurt. The people in the book describe this as the character of the city and the team. How else can this be interpreted? How does Bissinger interpret it? How do you know?

Friday Night Lights, Chapter 4

Discussion Questions:

1. Bissinger states, "It was too ugly for him and the land itself bore no secrets nor ever inspired the imagination...and never disappeared." What does the imagery in this line symbolize?
2. On page 81, Bissinger states that when Mike's father "started slipping," Mike lost confidence in himself. How is this idea supported by fandom?
3. How does Mike's economic situation and his skill on the football field relate to his self-image and confidence? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. What is the importance of Coach Hollingshead's statement on page 85 about "how even the most talented kid could come unglued" under the Friday night lights?
5. Why does Bissinger use the term frantic unison to describe the elementary students on page 86?
6. On page 89, what does Bissinger mean when he says Charlie Billingsley is still trying to find the way home?
7. Reread the second full paragraph on page 91. If you were Don or Charlie Billingsley, what would your reaction be to Bissinger's analysis in this paragraph?