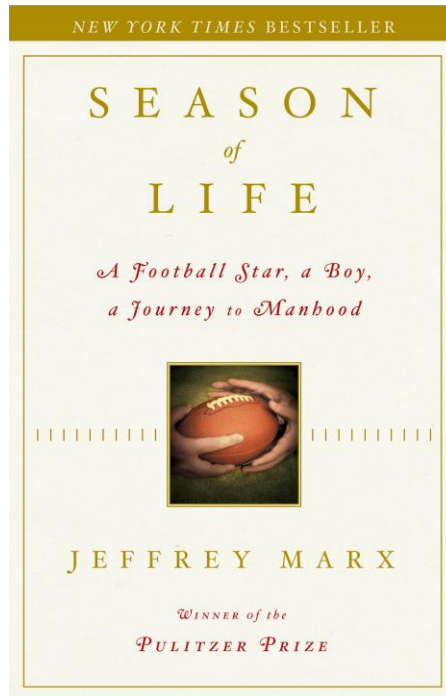


Name _____

Organized Notes for *Season of Life* by Jeffrey Marx (English Levels 7, 9)



I. Title _____

II. Author _____

III. Point of View (Who is telling the story?) _____

IV. Tell why the following two characters are the most important ones. You will not be able to answer this question until you start reading and find out who they are and what their roles in the story are.

Jeffrey Marx _____

Joe Ehrmann _____

V. Tell why Memorial Stadium in Baltimore, Maryland, is so important to Jeffrey Marx.

VI. Plot - Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Chapter One:

1. What is special about this night for the boys involved?

2. How is Joe Ehrmann described on page 2?

3. What are the two questions Joe asks the players, and what are their responses?

Question One _____

Answer to question one _____

Question Two _____

Answer to question two _____

4. What does the narrator wonder about what he has just seen?

Chapter Two:

1. What is about to happen to Memorial Stadium in Baltimore, Maryland, that affects the narrator?

2. What "collection" does he find when he goes upstairs?

3. What does he do one Friday morning in January of 2001?

4. After this visit, what does he decide to do?

Chapter Three:

1. When did the narrator first meet Joe Ehrmann?

2. What is the topic of the poem "That Guy in the Glass" that the narrator copies?

3. What becomes the narrator's nickname, and who gives it to him?

4. How does the narrator describe his father, Richard Marx?

5. On pages 13-15, what does Ehrmann do to show himself as the inspirational and social leader of the Colts?

Chapter Four:

1. Why are Joe and Billy Ehrmann excited about the summer of 1978?

2. What tragic event causes them to change their plans?

3. What does Joe learn from Edwin Markham's poem?

4. After burying Billy, what does Joe begin to do with Jay Levinson?

5. What happened on April 28, 1980, that shows Joe beginning to reach out?

6. What is the “ultimate negative,” and what does Joe do with it?

Chapter Five:

1. What is the purpose of “The Door”?

2. Why does Joe move his family closer to “The Door”?

Chapter Six:

1. What does Ehrmann say society does not do a good enough job doing?

2. What does being on any team force each individual to do?

3. What do teammates often not know about each other?

Chapter Seven:

1. What is the topic of Joe Ehrmann’s speech before a group of coaches at a football clinic in Pittsburgh that surprises some of the coaches?

2. What does Joe mean when he says people need to be “other centered”?

3. What does Joe say boys learn to do if the boys feel they do not have the “right stuff”?

4. Joe says that winning comes with what rather than with ridicule?

Chapter Eight:

1. When summer practice begins, what does head coach Biff Poggi tell the boys that their participation in high school activities will lead to, regardless of what activities the boys choose?

2. How did Biff and Joe meet?

3. How does Biff define greatness for the boys?

4. What does Biff mean when he tells the boys to be “inclusive,” not “exclusive”?

5. When a parent asks how successful the boys will be, what is Biff's response?

Chapter Nine:

1. What happens to Biff's son at Johns Hopkins, where they are playing a fundraiser game?

2. What events led to senior captain Mike Dowling being kicked off the team as a junior?

3. How was Mike Dowling not acting as a "man built for others"?

4. Although Bartimaeus was a blind beggar, why was he so special to Tiamaeus?

5. In what two ways are the boys bruised after the game with #2 DeMatha?

Chapter Ten:

1. What are the parts of the "false masculinity" that Ehrmann tells Marx that most boys have?

2. How does Ehrmann describe his relationship with his dad?

3. How does Marx describe his mom and dad's relationship with each other when he was younger, and why are they happier now?

Chapter Eleven:

1. What does Biff say to the team after they are defeated by Urbana High School, a team that had won thirty-eight straight games and three consecutive state championships in their division?

2. How are Ambrose Wooden and Mike Dowling prime examples of two young men who are working on becoming Men Built for Others?

Ambrose Wooden _____

Mike Dowling _____

3. What huge national event happens that causes the world and Gilman High School to wonder how we should react?

4. What did each boy bring that allowed Gilman to defeat Lock Raven High School?

Chapter Twelve:

1. What world event caused the world to change?

2. What does Biff say is a mom's reward for her labor that makes every person feel good about him- or herself?

3. What is the lesson that Biff says each person should learn from Job's problems?

4. Although Gilman wins that football game, what selfish act does Victor Abiamiri do that upsets Biff?

5. After the game, what causes the writer Jeffrey Marx to feel so good about that day?

Chapter Thirteen:

1. What are things that Joe says "breeds terrorism"?

2. What are three of the questions that Joe and his wife tell their children to ask themselves so that they can feel what other people are feeling (empathy)?

3. What are the four things that Joe says a man is created to do?

4. When Joe talks about a son's relationship with his father, what are three of the questions in the book Questions for My Father that Marks finds a son might want to ask his dad?

Chapter Fourteen:

1. Why was the football game against St. Joseph so special for Napoleon Sykes?

2. What should a person

seek _____

encourage _____

defend _____ and

plead _____?

Chapter Fifteen:

1. Besides a football game, what are the two reasons Biff gives for taking the team to New York City?

2. What was special about 1740 Broadway for the author?

3. What was so special about fire station Engine 54, Ladder 4, Battalion 9 that caused the team to be quiet when they went past it and reminds Marx of Joe's "Built for Others" theme?

4. What does Poly Prep's coach do that is humiliating to his school and team?

5. What is the coach's response to Marx's letter that shows the coach is not ashamed of his behavior?

Chapter Sixteen:

1. What happened that caused Jeffrey Marx to spend so much time trying to promote the need for organ donors?

2. When Joe does a funeral, what does he say may be the hardest thing to thing to do for some people?

3. Why is it important for each person to find a cause in his or her life?

4. What are three of the things that Job gives as reasons for others thinking well of him?

Chapter Seventeen:

1. Besides telling his team no drugs or alcohol during their homecoming weekend, how does he tell them to act to their dates?

2. What tradition does the team continue to enact before the game begins?

3. How did Tilghman Morton get the nickname "The Duck"?

4. Why does the team carry Tilghman off the field?

Chapter Eighteen:

1. How old would Joe's brother Billy be, but how does Joe picture him?

2. When you give a person responsibility, what must he or she be willing to accept because of that responsibility?

3. How should we act if part of our beliefs is to “expect God’s greater rewards”?

Chapter Nineteen:

1. What happens during the game against Loyola Blakefield that causes the team to lose momentum even though they are leading 12-0?

2. What does Biff say is his biggest concern for his team after the loss to a team that was a huge underdog?

3. What does the team do on the morning after their victory over Dunbar?

Chapter Twenty:

1. What three events would a “well-informed historian” be able to say happened in 1914?

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

2. Although the author Jeffrey Marx now is close to the Gilman school, what are his memories of the McDonogh school from twenty-seven years earlier?

3. What is the quote Joe cites from the apostle Paul that deals with growing up and responsibility for our actions?

4. When Biff talks to the boys about “being sent” (just like your parents and guardians send you), what does he say he wants the boys to do?

5. What are the occupations of the holder and kicker that show how cooperation leads to success regardless of background?

Holder Napoleon Sykes’ Father _____

Kicker Tilghman Morton’s Father _____

Chapter Twenty-one:

1. How do the words “No Regrets” come to be a guiding force in the author’s life?

2. How does this experience with Joe Ehrmann help Jeffrey Marx and his father have a better relationship?
