

Name _____

P _____

Test Grade: RASCS 2 pt each
Rest of questions are 1 pt each

Brian's Song Study Guide

We have been talking about important changes in the rights of American citizens. By "rights" we mean freedom to choose our way of life, our jobs, our friends. These freedoms also mean we can express ourselves, or not, as we choose. We can have dreams and goals and achieve them with hard work, determination, and luck.

We also now know that these rights have existed "on paper." This means that they are written in our American Constitution and Declaration of Independence. However, it has taken many years for these rights to become practice for some Americans, such as blacks, women, and handicapped people.

Here's a FACT List of ideas to consider.

Before the Civil Rights movement	After the Civil Rights movement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Women, immigrants, people of color, Jews, children, handicapped, or any group of people DIFFERENT from the ruling class of people were not always given their full rights equally.➤ Discrimination of individuals was practiced in laws and actions in our country.➤ Our legal system protected some people, but not others.➤ Cruel and unusual treatment was suffered by many. This is called OPPRESSION.➤ "Depreciators" – those who devalue others because of their differences from ourselves. This habit is learned. It must be unlearned to change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ People like MLK Jr., Cesar Chavez, Gloria Steinem, Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II, and others have had strong voices that have pushed for change in our country, and our world for fair human rights for all.➤ These leaders helped to bring CHANGE in our Public Opinions (beliefs). This brought about change in laws that oppress.➤ More work is needed to encourage people; school children, parents, all people, to be AWARE of private (personal) opinions that help grow the rights/freedoms of people, or hurt the growth of these rights/freedoms.➤ "Appreciators" – those who look to value the diversity of others. This is learned, and can be developed and grown. It's a choice.

This **teleplay** (a play for television) is about the struggles of two young men in the late 1960s. This was shortly after the death of Martin Luther King. Although blacks were now experiencing support for their rights in public law and practices, many blacks suffered from the personal prejudices and actions of people that they met everyday.

Title: Brian's Song

Author: (like a **Playwright**) Screenwriter - William Blinn

Genre: (type of literature): teleplay – a drama written to be performed and recorded for television viewing

Main Characters:

Gale Sayer – a shy, quiet African American young man

Brian Piccolo – a confident, outgoing Italian American young man

Narrator- voice commentator

George Halas- coach of the Bears

J.C. Caroline

Abe Gibron → assistant coaches of the Bears

Ed McCaskey

Atkins

Evey → players for the Bears

O'Bradovich

Linda Sayers – Gale's wife

Joy Piccolo – Brian's wife

Speaker – at awards ceremony

Jack Concannon – quarterback of the Bears

Announcer – radio sportscaster

Dr. Fox – treats Gale

Nurses

Hotel Official

Player – Gale's new roommate

Mr. Eberle – hospital official

Doctor – gives Brian anesthesia

M.C. – master of ceremonies

Background: Both men are drafted by the Chicago Bears football team. This is a great achievement for them. They are also competing for the same halfback position. This poses some problems for the young men, especially when they are assigned to be roommates in the training camp dormitories.

Use this study guide to hold your learning of this play. Follow these directions carefully because they will affect your grade.

1. You will answer **all** questions in this packet. You do **not** have to answer all questions with RASC. However, you will continue to build your RASC paragraph writing skills by *answering the circled questions* in greater depth, using the RASC format. RASCs are to be answered **ON THE BACK OF YOUR PACKET PAGES**, or on looseleaf paper. Credit will be given based on the a) length of your answer, and b) how well they are written (2 details + 1 inference).
2. You will receive a daily HW grade for questions assigned. You will also earn a test grade for the **completed** packet. **DO YOUR BEST WORK.**

Tip: All questions immediately after a page number can be answered by looking back at that page. A new page number will indicate a new set of questions.

Research questions Part One (pages 276-298):

1. Study the way this piece is written and formatted. What clues tell you this is a play?
Now, what clues tell you it's a "teleplay"? (P. 277)
2. Why do you think the narrator says in column one, "Ernest Hemingway said that every true story ends in death. Well, this is a true story."?
3. What literary device is the quote in question #2 an example of?
4. What is a playwright? What is a screenwriter? What's the difference?
5. List some of the descriptive words that the author uses to describe each young man.
6. Compare the two men. What is the same about them? What is different?

Same	Different

7. Reread the description of Gale as he first arrives on the campus. Based on our conversations in class about people who have suffered discrimination, describe how Gale's behavior may relate to those conversations.

8. Brian tries to be friendly to Gale on page 278. Why do you think Gale does not respond to Brian?
9. What might this tell you about Gale?
10. Do you think Gale should trust Brian? Why or why not?
11. Gale meets Coach Halas for the first time. He is described as “a large man of some years, some strength, and much power (p. 279).” What does this mean about him?
12. Why does Gale keep moving around the room? How does this show you that Gale does trust Brian?
13. What does Coach mention that could threaten Gale’s performance on the team?
14. On page 280, Coach is exasperated with Gale. Why?
15. What might the event in question # 14 suggest about Brian Piccolo?
16. What do you notice about where Gale sits for his first training camp dinner (p. 281)?
17. This passage says that Gale is involved in “pass-the-salt” conversations. What could this metaphor mean?
18. Why is Gale not happy about Brian joining him?
19. What strict rules do the players have to follow? What are the consequences if they don’t follow them?
20. Why does Gale get into trouble (p. 282)? What are his consequences? How does this make him feel?
21. Do you think Gale has a right to feel this way? Why or why not?
22. Brian is requested to sing a football “fight song.” Gale thinks this will be punishment for Brian, yet he loves it! What does this tell you about each man?
23. How does Gale get his revenge on Brian?
24. It says that Brian “can’t quite work up a smile, but neither can he get to a point of being angry about it. He can take it as well as hand it out, it seems (p. 232)”. What does this suggest about Brian?
25. Do you think Brian is trying to be cruel, or is he being playful? Support your answer.
26. On page 283 both men are pushed to their limits doing wind sprints. Then Brian says to Gale “...I think it’s working...I’m getting you overconfident.” What could this mean?
27. Brian gets himself in trouble on page 283. How?
28. On page 284 Brian finally is able to connect to Brian. How does this happen?

29. What does it mean when Gale repeats what Brian had said at the beginning, “us rookies have to stick together”?
30. Pay attention to page 285. This event is very important and connects to our classroom discussions about the Civil Rights Movement. Briefly summarize what happens on this page.
31. What important decision does Gale have to make?
32. Why is this decision so important?
33. What do you think he should do?
34. Is this an example of internal or external conflict? Why?
35. On page 286 Brian, Pic, discovers Gale in his room. Is he mad at Gale or himself? How can you tell?
36. Why do Brian and Gale start celebrating?
37. What happens that proves both men are on the team?
38. On page 287 reporters interview Gale and Brian. Describe how each man handles this.
39. Also, review the descriptions of each man’s uniform. What might be the reason for this?
40. What is Gale’s big breakthrough on page 288?
41. Describe Gale’s and Brian’s relationship at this point.
42. What special honor does Gale earn on page 290. Is Brian happy for him, or jealous of him? How do you know?
43. On page 290 and 291 Brian has a confession for Gale. What does he tell Gale?
44. How does Gale respond?
45. Then it says, “There’s no anger between them, just resolve.” What does this suggest about their friendship?
46. On page 291 the Chicago Bears start a new season. Describe how Brian and Gale are behaving toward each other.
47. Why is Gale starting to worry?
48. On page 292 what happens that disappoints both men, yet makes Gale feel relieved, too?
49. On page 293 something awful happens to Gale. What is it and what could this mean for his football career?
50. What does this event mean for Brian?
51. Then what does Brian do that is so surprising on page 294?
52. Although Brian does something for Gale, why does he say it is for himself as well (p. 296)?
53. Page 296 is interesting because of what we learn about both character? First, why did Gale throw away his cane? Secondly, Dr. Fox seems to think that Gale is training alone. What is really happening?
54. These events suggest that Brian and Gale’s friendship is very complex. Why do you think this is so?

55. Pages 297 and 298 describe a race between Gale and Brian. What does this race symbolize for them?

Part Two (pages 303-319).

56. Assistant coach Abe Gibron is tough (p. 303). Why?
57. Define calisthenics. What are they?
58. What does Coach Halas see Brian about (p. 304)?
59. What does the coach's decision mean for both men?
60. Gale says, "...I think you finally found a way to shut him up!" What does he mean by this?
61. Why is Abe Gibron worried about Brian (p. 305)?
62. Gale is "puzzled; it's a weird combination...unsettling...Gale lets it sink in." reread above that passage. Why is it puzzling?
63. What does Gale notice about Brian on page 305? Describe Brian's symptoms.
64. On page 306 the playwright says that Brian and Gale give each other the "thumbs up" sign and that "both are...lies and prayers." What could this mean?
65. What difficult decision does Coach Halas tell Gale about? Why was this decision made?
66. Gibron talks to Brian while Halas talks to Gale. What might this tell you about how the team sees their relationship?
67. How does Brian feel about the coach's decision?
68. What silly joke shows us that Brian has an incredible sense of humor (p. 307)?
69. Reread the section on page 307 from "Interior- The coach's office- Day – Full shot" to the end of the page. What's happening here?
70. What is the playwright, William Blinn, predicting with this dramatic foreshadowing (question #69)?
71. What is wrong with Brian (p. 308)? Why is this so shocking?
72. What amazing task does Gale volunteer to do?
73. Why is the task so hard for Gale to do, yet so right for him to do?
74. There is a saying, "Difficult times build character." There is another saying, "Difficult times *reveal* (show) character." What do the events on page 308 reveal about Gale?
75. We said Gale would never feel comfortable talking to a crowd, being the "center of attention." What changes have occurred in him to allow him to speak to the team like this? Who is responsible for this change?

76. "Gale attempts to make eye contact with the other members of the team..." Mrs. Drebot has talked MANY times about the importance of making eye contact with an audience. What were some of the reasons Mrs. Drebot said making eye contact is important?

77. Refer to question #76. How does your answer to that question apply to Gale Sayer?

78. What tribute (special gift) does Gale suggest the team give to Brian?

79. On page 310 Brian is laughing and joking about the Chicago Bears losing the game. Why is this an example of irony?

80. What reasons might there be for the Bears to have lost the game, even though they had wanted so badly to win it for Brian?

81. Brian says he's in pain. Why is it so surprising when you think about this compared to his cheerful response to everything? Is this irony, too?

82. On page 311 Gale and Joy are fulfilling Brian's request (favor). What is this request?

83. What does this request tell you about Brian?

84. Why is it so important to Joy and Gale to fulfill Brian's request? What is the sad outcome they discover?

85. What frightening connection to Patti might Joy be making about Brian that explains her deep reaction (p. 311)?

86. Should they tell Brian Patti died? Why or why not?

87. What is ironic about Gale and Brian's situation? [Hint: Brian helped Gale back to full health. Can Gale do this for Brian?]

88. On page 312 Brian is upset that Gale missed the ball in a crucial (important) play during the game. Brian then says about Gale: "You'd think the ball was wearing a white sheet." What does this mean? [Hint: It relates to the acts of discrimination blacks suffered before the Civil Rights Movement.]

89. On page 313, Brian asks Gale a special favor? What is the favor?

90. Then, Joy Piccolo, Brian's wife, asks Gale a special favor, too. What is that favor?

91. Mr. Eberle surprises Brian on page 314. How does he do this?

92. Explain in your own words what Gale means about the important connection between the mental and physical parts of an athlete (p. 314)?

93. Now, how does the mind/body connection you just described in question #92 relate to YOU and what Mrs. Drebot talks about a lot in class? What important connection is there between YOUR mind and body?
94. On page 316, Brian and Gale talk about the positive influence Brian has had on Gale. What is that influence?
95. Brian is fighting for his life. Is this an example of internal or external conflict? Or both? Why?
96. For a man who dislikes speaking to crowds, how does Gale Sayers speech on page 317 sound? Why is it so special?
97. What does Gale do with his award?
98. Why does Linda tell Gale to hurry when she talks to him on the phone (p. 317)?
99. What does Brain mean when he says he's "fourth and eight" (p. 318)?
100. When Gale gets to his car outside of the hospital, he looks up. Ed McCaskey had just closed the blinds in Brian's room. What does this symbol tell Gale (p. 319)?
101. We remember great men because they teach us important lessons about how to live. What can we learn from Brian Piccolo?
102. What can we learn from Gale Sayers?
103. Brian had told Gale at the start of the play "We rookies have to stick together." In what ways did they do this? In what ways could they not do this, no matter how hard they tried?