**A Summer's Reading / Bernard Malamud**

**BASIC UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS**

1. Why did George leave school? Why didn't he go back to school?
2. What do we know about George's family? List THREE things.
3. Describe the setting of the story.
4. When George went to the park he wished for a better life. Give 2 examples of things he wished for.
5. Where does Mr. Cattanzara work and what does he do?
6. How is Mr. Cattanzara different from the people in the neighborhood?
7. What kind of things does George like to read?

**CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS**

1. Why do think the writer chose the name, Stoyonovich, which means “staying in one place” in Slavic, and Cattanzara, “chained” in Italian, for his two main characters?
2. “Don't do what I did".

Why did Mr. Cattanzara say this to George?

1. Why does George feel ashamed at the beginning of the story?
2. What was the reason Mr. Cattanzara spread the second rumor, that George finished reading 100 books? Explain.
3. In your opinion, what happened to George at the end of the story? Explain.

**POST-READING**

1. “Many first generation Americans like Bernard Malamud valued education as a path to opportunity for themselves and their children." (from the interview with the author)

Explain how this quote adds to your understanding of the story.

1. In his writing Malamud managed to create an honest picture of the life of immigrants in America.

Make a connection between the above quote and the story. Support you answer with information from the story.