

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

Quizlet questions and answers:

When senator Sam Foley dies, how is his Senate seat replaced? The governor appoint someone new.

Why is the governor and his group of supporters worried about who will take Senator Foley's place? Because they need a "yes" man so they can get their shady legislation passed.

Who becomes the new Senator and what group of people recommend him? Jefferson Smith and the Governors kid.

Why are the people of the state so happy that Jefferson Smith has become Senator? Because he's naive, not corrupted by big city politics, he's not a yes man.

What does Mr. Smith do when he first arrives in Washington, D.C.? He takes a sightseeing tour.

What nickname does Saunders give him? Daniel Boone Why does Mr. Smith want to visit Mt. Vernon before his first day as Senator? To get in the mood.

What is Mt. Vernon? George Washington's house.

How does the press change Mr. Smith's words from his first press conference? Examples? They take pictures of him and put it in the newspaper out of context.

Why can't Mr. Smith respond to the allegations on the Senate floor about his sincerity as a Senator? He's not a Senator yet so he has no official voice (hasn't been sworn in yet).

How does he react to the newspaper articles? He punches and beats up the reporters.

What bill does Mr. Smith want to introduce and pass? A National Boys Camp

Why are there only 96 Senators? Because there's 2 from each state and there is only 48 states (Alaska and Hawaii aren't states yet).

Why doesn't Saunders think that Mr. Smith's bill will be easy to pass?

Because she doesn't feel it's important enough to be passed, hard to pass and he's been in the senate two days.

Why is the location of Mr. Smith's camp so important? Because he grew up there (Willet Creek) same place Payne want to build a dam.

What does Saunders call Senator Payne's daughter, Susan? Susan Payne in the Neck.

Why does Susan Payne tale Mr. Smith out for the afternoon? So he won't be there when Senator Payne introduces his bill.

What does Saunders to to "enlighten" or tell Mr. Smith about his bill? She shows him a copy of Senator Payne's bill.

How has Senator Payne managed to stay in office for 30 years? Because he compromises and takes the advice from Jim Taylor. How does Senator Payne prevent Mr. Smith from speaking against the deficiency bill? He

cuts Mr. Smith off and says he stealing nickels and dimes from the Boys Club.

What does the Payne "group" do to make Mr. Smith look bad? They say he bought the land so he could sell it.

What does Mr. Smith do on the floor of the Senate to be heard? He causes a filibuster.

How does the President of the Senate react? He seems to encourage it and believe Jeff Smith.

How does Taylor try to keep the news away from the state? He controls the newspaper.

How does Saunders get the correct information to the state? She puts it in the Boys Ranger newspaper.

What does Taylor's group do to the members of the boys' club? He steal their newspaper, run them off the road, and hits them with water hoses.

Student lesson plan:

Over the next few days we will be watching the movie, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." There will be several activities that we will be doing as a class in conjunction with this movie. This packet will help you complete these activities and get the most of the lessons to be learned from this movie.

This packet contains: 1. Overall themes for consideration and discussion
2. Questions to help guide you through the movie
3. Directions for the final project dealing with the issues of this movie

- (1) In the first section you will see various questions and statements to consider both while you are watching the movie and after you've seen the whole thing. You will respond to these questions and statements **on paper**.
- (2) The second section has a list of questions to help guide you through the movie. You should respond to the questions as you watch the movie. You will hand these in to me.
- (3) The last sections tells you about the final project options and how to complete them.

This is a **BIG** project.

Section 1 - Themes and Ideas From the Movie (answer on separate paper) - **25 Pts.**

Section 2 - Questions to Help Guide You Through The Movie (answer on separate paper) - **25 Pts.**

Section 3 - Final Project – Format is decided by the student – **50 Pts.**

Total Points: 100

**ALL PORTIONS OF THIS PACKET INCLUDING THE FINAL PROJECT ARE DUE MONDAY,
OCTOBER 26**



1. Themes and Ideas Presented in the Movie

The following are a list of questions or ideas that come up in the movie. You will respond to each item to the best of your abilities. Don't worry about getting a "right" answer. For many of the issues presented there is no "right" answer. I want your personal opinion, your gut reaction. Tell me what you think. This part is also open ended. That means that there could be other issues that are in the movie that I may not have thought of. You might see something I miss. Therefore, I will give **extra credit** (2pts each) for any issues or questions that you bring up on your own.

1. What do you think is the role of government in society?
2. Do you think our government cares about you?
3. How are minorities represented in the movie?
4. How are women represented in the movie?
5. Do you have a problem with the way Smith seems to talk about issues of the nation being only for boys or men?
6. How do you feel about Smith?
7. How do you feel about a. Taylor b. Paine c. Saunders d. Diz or the other reporters?
8. Are there honest people in politics?
9. What is the difference between compromise and sacrificing your morals and integrity?
10. Do you see *cynicism* in this movie? If so where and by whom?
11. What is idealism? Is there a difference between idealism and simply being naive?
12. What about the notion of "Public Opinion" can the media control public opinion?
13. How powerful do you think the media is in influencing politics?
14. Are Paine, Taylor and their friends evil?
15. Compare the race, age and sex of the Senators in this film with the ones of today. How different are they?
16. Do you admire Jeff Smith or is he just going too far? Is he a corny dope or a hero?
17. How much of a difference can one person make in the world?
18. Do you think something like this can happen today?
19. Did you like the movie? Why or why not?
20. Analyze the following quote from Smith as he begins to write his bill about the boys camp:

"You see, boys forget what their country means by just reading The Land of the Free in history books. Then they get to be men they forget even more. Liberty's too precious a thing to be buried in books, Miss Saunders. Men should hold it up in front of them every single day of their lives and say: I'm free to think and to speak. My ancestors couldn't, I can, and my children will. Boys ought to grow up remembering that."

2. Questions to Help Guide You Through the Movie

Below are some questions that follow along in order with the movie. Do your best to answer them as we come to each question. However, if you miss an answer, move on. In many cases you can answer the question by listening to later events.

1. Who does Senator Paine tell the Governor to call?
2. What are Taylor and Paine worried about?
3. Who owns the land around Willet Creek?

4. Why do Taylor and Paine want Horace Miller to be the next Senator?
5. Why do the Governor's children like Smith?
6. Why do Taylor and Paine think Smith is OK?
7. How does Smith feel about his appointment to the Senate?
8. How do Jeff Smith and his father feel about lost causes?
9. What happened to Smith's father?
10. Describe the women Smith meets in the station.
11. What are some nicknames that Jeff Smith gets when he comes to Washington D.C.?
12. What does Smith do when he gets to Washington D.C.?
13. As Smith tours Washington, what images are shown on the screen?
14. Do you notice a difference between Smith's attitude and those who have been in Washington D.C.? What is it?
15. What is Diz's job?
16. What is Saunders' job?
17. What does the reporter with the glasses promise Saunders if she gets him an interview with Smith?
18. What is Smith's idea that he wants to write a bill for?
19. How did the reporters make Smith look?
20. What does Paine want Saunders to do with Smith?
21. How does Paine react when Saunders mentions Willet Creek?
22. According to the boy who shows Smith to his desk what is the way to get re-elected?
23. What do you think Paine's goal is politically?
24. Look at the Senate. How would you describe the age, sex and race of the Senators?
25. What do the men of the press club tell Smith?
26. How does Paine react when Smith tells him he wants to be informed about the bills?
27. Why do you think Smith wants a boys camp? Do you think girls would be allowed?
28. Where does he want to build it?
29. Why does Paine jump when Smith introduces his bill concerning Willet Creek?
30. How does the Senate react as Smith begins to speak?
31. Why does Paine not want Smith in the Senate when the deficiency bill (concerning Willet Creek) is discussed?
32. What does Saunders think is going to happen to Smith?
33. What happens when Paine tries to disagree with Taylor?
34. What has Taylor done for Paine?
35. What businesses does Taylor own in Smith's state?
36. What does Taylor offer Smith in return for his cooperation?
37. Where does Paine say Smith has been "living"?
38. What does Paine say you have to "check at the door"?
39. What is Paine's word for checking your ideals?
40. Why does Paine think compromise is good?
41. What does Paine suggest Smith do when the bill comes up for a vote?

42. What happens when Smith tries to speak out in the Senate?
43. How do the people treat Smith?
44. What does the investigative committee reveal about Smith?
45. Why would the “Taylor Machine” create these lies about Smith’s involvement in the Willet Creek scam?
46. What do you think Saunders means when she says, “they aren’t all Taylors and Paines. They just throw big shadows”?
47. What does Saunders want Smith to do?
48. In the Senate, why was it important that Smith be recognized to speak first?
49. Why does Pain speak so forcefully against Smith?
50. What does Taylor say about “Public Opinion?”
51. What does Taylor instruct the newspapers and other media in his state to say about Smith?
52. How is Taylor using the media?
53. What happens when people try to print the truth or “voice” their support for Jeff Smith?
54. What do you think about how the media can be controlled by a single person to be used for their own benefit?
55. How long had Smith been speaking?
56. Why do you think Paine did what he did in the end?

3. Directions for the Final Project -

As a culminating event you will complete a final project that brings together your ideas and thoughts regarding the issues and lessons that came from this movie. You have three options for the final project:

Option 1- ESSAY

You may write an essay of at least 3 pages concerning the issues presented in “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.” This essay should be the standard form (typed, 12pt font, 1.5 spacing) with an introduction, body and conclusion. Do **NOT** simply summarize the movie. I have seen it enough times. I want you to discuss something from the movie. There should be a clear thesis and arguments supported with evidence from the film. For example, you might discuss why you did or did not like the film.

Option 2 - ORAL REPORT

Similar to the Essay, I want you to discuss some themes or issues from the movie. The report should be at least 5 MINUTES IN LENGTH. You will turn in written notes for your oral report.

Option 3- ORIGINAL ART OR POSTER

Design and create an original poster dealing with themes from the movie. This poster must be larger than notebook paper. For example, you could create a campaign poster or a poster either supporting or attacking Smith,

FINAL PROJECTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN **MONDAY, OCTOBER 26**

If you have questions or need ideas for your project SEE ME! Don’t let this opportunity go by. Be creative and enjoy the process.

