

Freeport Public
LIBRARY



More than books on a shelf.



FOUNDATION

Illinois Humanities Council

SUITE 1400
17 NORTH STATE ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60602.3296
312.422.5580
www.prairie.org



FREEPORT ART MUSEUM

The
Journal-Standard

www.journalstandard.com



BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKSELLERS

Listing of book discussions

Feb. 2: Book Club Discussion; 10 a.m. at the Freeport Public Library.

Feb. 13: Book Club Discussion; 4 p.m. at Prince of Peace.

Feb. 17: About a Book (JS) Book Club Discussion; 7 p.m. at the Journal Standard Building.

Feb. 21: HCC Book Club Discussion; 8:30 a.m. at the HCC Conference Center in Room H210.

Feb. 22: Lincoln Towers Book Discussion; 1 p.m. at Lincoln Towers.

Feb. 23: Readers Inc. Book Club Discussion; Noon at the Freeport Public Library.

Feb. 24: Parkview Book Discussion; 2 p.m. at Parkview Home.

Feb. 28: Book Club Discussion; 7 p.m. at the United Presbyterian Church.

For more information about programs and events, visit
www.freeportpubliclibrary.org/onebook

fold here



Book Discussion Guide



More than books on a shelf.

Questions for your book discussions:

1. What was unique about the setting of the book and how did it enhance or take away from the story?
2. What similarities did you find between Sesser, Illinois and Freeport?
3. What specific themes did the author emphasize throughout the book? What do you think the author is trying to get across to the reader?
4. Do any of the people in *Playing with the Enemy* remind you of yourself or someone you know? Do you find yourself relating personally to any of the people?
5. At what point in the story do you feel Gene lost his innocence?
6. Who was Gene's "Guardian Angel" and why?
7. What are the differences between Gene before Camp Ruston and after Camp Ruston?
8. How would you describe the relationship between Ray and Gene?
9. What did you find surprising about this story?
10. Do you believe Gene ever fully accepted his life without baseball?
11. Does the author present information in a way that is interesting and insightful, and if so, how does he achieve this?
12. Has reading *Playing with the Enemy* increased your interest in baseball? World War II? Small town America?
13. Did reading *Playing with the Enemy* lead you to a new understanding or awareness of some aspect of your life you might not have thought about before?
14. Will you recommend *Playing with the Enemy* to others and why?
15. Is there a difference between the western German naval POWs of WWII and the Islamo-Fascist POWs today?
16. Why do you think many readers claim that *Playing with the Enemy* transcends baseball and military history?
17. Does Gene remind you of anyone from Freeport, someone the entire town believed in and supported like that?
18. If you were in Gene's shoes guarding the German crewmen from the U-505 submarine, what would you have done?
19. If you were one of the soldiers in Gene's unit guarding the German crewmen, what would you think of Gene's idea?
20. What are some of the differences between major league baseball in the 1940s and even 1950s, and today?
21. As a son or daughter, how would you have felt if you were in Gary's shoes, finding out about your father's history so late in life?
22. Does this remind you of a similar book that you have read?
23. Do you have a suggestion for the next One Book, One Freeport selection?

