

RUBY SPARKS

I. Vocabulary Translation and Context:

Translate the following words and recall the context in which they were used in the film.

<u>English Word/Phrase</u>	<u>Ukrainian Translation</u>	<u>Context in the Film</u>
<u>slobbery</u>		
<u>bookworm</u>		
<u>hone</u>		
<u>pass the baton</u>		
<u>mediocre</u>		
<u>trite</u>		
<u>underdog</u>		
<u>quirky</u>		
<u>weirdo</u>		
<u>assertive</u>		
<u>manacles</u>		
<u>to give a run for money</u>		
<u>mellow</u>		

<u>despondent</u>		
<u>begrudgingly</u>		

II. Cultural References:

Find information about the following:

- Salinger, “Catcher in the Rye”
- Humphrey Bogart
- John Lennon
- Craig’s list
- Ricky Jay
- Big Sur
- Prozac
- “Harvey”

III. Sequence of Events:

Restore the correct order of the following events from the film.

- ___ Ruby was filled with the most delicious, effervescent happiness. She didn’t worry about Calvin leaving. There wasn’t any room for worry in all that joy.
- ___ Ruby was just Ruby. Happy or sad, however she felt. Whoever she might be.
- ___ As soon as Ruby left the house, the past released her. She was no longer Calvin’s creation. From that moment on, only Ruby could determine the course her life. She was free.
- ___ Ruby was miserable without Calvin. She had to be near him all the time, or she would become despondent.
- ___ Hey, I heard they’re doing a Zombie Film Festival at the cemetery, you wanna go? We could do a shot every time someone gets bitten.
- ___ Suddenly and inexplicably, Ruby began to speak in French.
- ___ So they’re not interested in me, they’re interested in...some idea of me.
- ___ Ruby could not leave Calvin’s house. She couldn’t even leave his office.
- ___ Hasn’t it occurred to you that she might be an imposter?

IV. Phrase Analysis:

Recollect the context of usage and comment on the following phrases from the film.

1. I don't know. I don't know. I get an idea, a good idea, like, why don't I write about my dad? And BAM, I start thinking that is the stupidest thing ever, who wants to read about "He was disappointed in me, bla bla bla." But then I'm sitting there, alone, in front of my typewriter all day, and maybe I get something to eat, and all I can think about is how every second I'm getting older and he was right, what am I doing with my life? And also. Also I am feeling ambivalent about Scotty. He slobbers. He chews things. He pees like a girl, which for some reason makes me feel inadequate. But then I feel bad, because if I don't love him, who will?
2. ... he needs to go outside a lot, and it breaks up my day. Maybe that's why I'm not writing?
3. Everyone sits at home and thinks, "I could do that, a monkey could do that." But one's muse is incredibly difficult. You have to seduce her, finesse her.
4. People think of writing as cerebral, but its actually an incredibly physical, almost sensual act. You should see me write. I'm like an Olympian. With a pen.
5. Yeah, an aggressive gesture. Think about it: you're a novelist, you think this guy is the greatest, you name your dog after him to cut him down to size. Now you can put him on a leash and yell "Bad Scotty" and feel all superior 'cuz you pee inside. Kill your idols, man, I'm all for it.
6. I don't think so. I think this is pretty much the strangest thing that's ever happened EVER. What are you going to do, marry her? Have kids with her? Wouldn't that be like incest? Mind-cest?
7. A great gift can be a burden in its own right. It can be lonely.
8. And I think I should start spending some nights at my apartment. I miss having my own space. There has to be space in the relationship. Otherwise, it's like we're the same person. One night a week. I think you can handle it.
9. One may read this and think it's magic but falling in love is an act of magic. So is writing.
10. 'That rare miracle of fiction has again come to pass: a human being has been created out of ink, paper, and the imagination.' I am no J.D. Salinger, but I have

witnessed a rare miracle. Any writer can attest, in the luckiest, happiest state, the words are not coming from you, but through you.

V. Correcting Factual Errors about Ruby:

Correct the following wrong facts about Ruby, and find proof in the film.

1. Ruby is middle-aged.
2. She came from Dayton, Texas.
3. She was a well-behaved girl at school.
4. She is very skillful at driving.
5. She is very practical and successful.
6. She is well-read and extremely smart.
7. She has always been lucky in her relations with men.
8. She is in love with Calvin.
9. She is real.

VI. Discussion Questions:

Answer the following questions about the film.

1. How does the action start? What kinds of locations are depicted? Why?
2. Who is Calvin? What does he do?
3. How does he feel at the beginning of the film? How is his state shown? Why is he unable to form relationships with any girls, with people in general? Who is Calvin's bosom friend?
4. What is the main conflict? What problems are raised in the film?
5. Who are the main characters? Dwell on the personalities of Calvin, Harry, Susie, Dr. Rosental, Bobby, Langdon Tharp, Lila, Mort, Scotty. What role do they play in the story?
6. Dwell on the character of Ruby. What do we know about her? Why is she characterized like that? Does the author use conventions of mass literature in

drawing her personality? What does Calvin especially like in Ruby? Is she a round character?

7. What means of characterization are used in the film?
8. What task did Dr. Rosental give Calvin at the beginning of the film?
9. What book did Calvin eventually publish?
10. Does your attitude to Calvin change while you watch the film?
11. How do you feel about Ruby?
12. Do you think that their relationship has any future?
13. This film is labeled as a “romantic comedy drama”. Do you agree? How would you define the genre of the film?
14. What’s your opinion about the cast? Soundtrack?
15. What is the message of the film? What lesson does it teach? What does it tell about the art of writing?
16. Can you find any allusions to an ancient myth? What are the implications of such allusions?
17. What might be another suitable title of the film?

VII. Alternate Perspectives:

Tell the story from the point of view of Ruby, Scotty, Harry, Dr. Rosental, Mort, Calvin’s mum.

VIII. Creative Writing:

Write your continuation to the storyline of the film (between 200 and 400 words).